

Lockerbie preventable, says report

Bush urged to strike at the bombers first

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

THE United States should stage pre-emptive strikes against known terrorist groups, the presidential commission into the Lockerbie bombing said yesterday. Where such military action was unwelcome, covert operations should be launched.

Pan American World Airways and the US Federal Aviation Administration are severely criticized for security lapses before, on the day of and after the bombing that claimed 270 lives in December 1988, but the commission said improved aviation security would only encourage terrorists to turn to other targets. The problem had to be tackled "at its source".

The notion that the US must always have watertight proof of a terrorist's guilt before taking action was dismissed as unacceptable. For too long, the free world had been "lurching from terrorist attack to terrorist attack, attempting to agree on how to respond to each event", the commission said. It was time America regarded terrorist attacks as acts of aggression against itself and adopted a more vigorous policy that not only pursued and punished terrorists, but also made state sponsors of terrorism pay the price for their cowardly and despicable crimes.

President Bush and his administration should plan, train and equip for "direct, pre-emptive or retaliatory

military actions against known terrorist hide-outs in countries that sanction them," the panel said. Where direct action was unwelcome, covert operations should be launched. "National will and the moral courage to exert it are the ultimate means for defeating terrorism."

The demand for such action, reflecting widespread frustration at the West's impotence in the face of terrorism, comes in a damning report that concludes the Lockerbie tragedy "may well have been preventable" and offers more than 60 recommendations for reforming a "seriously flawed" civil aviation security system.

The unanimous report by the panel of two senators, two congressmen and three independent experts, personally appointed by the President, seems certain to provoke a heated public debate in the US with hardliners recalling the 1986 bombing of Libya in retaliation for the murder of American servicemen in West Germany. The raid, conducted with British help, inspired widespread international criticism, and it subsequently transpired that Syria, not Libya, had been behind the Berlin atrocity. Reagan administration officials nevertheless maintained that the demonstration of resolve caused a downturn in Libyan-sponsored terrorism.

However, the commission's recommendation, along with a parallel call for state sponsors of terrorism to be isolated politically, diplomatically and militarily, comes at the worst possible time for Mr Bush, who is working for the release of American hostages in Lebanon. The State Department last month singled out Syria and Iran as the worst state sponsors of terrorism and linked both directly to the PFLP. Yet both countries used their influence to obtain the release of two hostages last month and Iran, in particular, is demanding reciprocal gestures of goodwill from Washington as the price of further co-operation.

Relatives of the British victims of the disaster gave a cautious welcome to the suggestion of pre-emptive strikes. Dr Jim Swire, their spokesman, said: "Our group has always been against military action in retaliation for Lockerbie, but the recommendations about pre-emptive strikes are a little different. Lockerbie was a revenge attack paid for by Iran. To kill Iranians and Syrians in return is only going

to make the situation worse and produce more grieving families." But, pointing to the raid on Libya, he said: "That resulted in Gaddafi getting out of the terrorist scene for a number of years, so that did achieve a great deal and probably saved many lives."

Mr Hector Monro, the Conservative MP whose constituency covers Lockerbie, rejected the idea, saying: "I don't think we can start attacking other countries on the suspicion that a terrorist attack might take place. There would be a grave possibility of running into war if you started doing that sort of thing."

The commission's investigation took it to West Germany, France and Britain, lasted seven months and pinpointed specific flaws in Pan Am's security systems at both Frankfurt and Heathrow airports which led it to conclude the bombing was probably preventable. It was, it said, "a disturbing story."

Unaccompanied baggage at Frankfurt was only X-rayed, not hand-checked as required, before being loaded. At both airports luggage was not cross-checked against individual passengers and there was inadequate screening of passengers fitting the profile of a potential terrorist or a terrorist's "dude". Pan Am baggage containers were not secured against tampering while awaiting loading.

The report said the Federal Aviation Administration was unhappy with Pan Am's security operations before Lockerbie, and found persistent violations in the subsequent months, at one point reporting that "all passengers flying out of Frankfurt on Pan Am are at great risk". It was nine months before the FAA declared itself satisfied.

The report did not offer conclusions on who was responsible for planting the bomb, which was in a radiocassette player in the hold. Nor did it suggest that greater attention should have been paid to warnings of possible terrorist attacks received in the weeks before Lockerbie.

Dr Swire welcomed the report and called for a similar inquiry in Britain, as did Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, who accused the Department of Transport of "hiding its role in this matter". The department rejected the criticism, saying two British inquiries were under way.



Windswept bishops at the funeral of Cardinal O'Fiaich clutch their mitres; and below, Sinn Fein leaders Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams



Opponents mourn

SENIOR British and Irish politicians and security officials sat only a few yards from IRA leaders at the funeral of Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, the former Primate of All Ireland, in Armagh Cathedral yesterday.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, was next to Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Close by were Dr Patrick Hillery, the Irish President, and Mr Hugh

Moscow seeks new tank deal

From Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, Moscow

MOSCOW is expected to present new conventional arms proposals today to meet the increasing concerns of the Soviet military, it emerged yesterday. The proposals are said to include a demand that the Soviet Army should be allowed to keep up to 15,000 tanks in the region covered by the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks.

A new tank ceiling and revised proposals on combat aircraft are expected to be put to Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, when he meets Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, here this morning. Yesterday Mr Shevardnadze indicated that new proposals were imminent when he held talks with Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, who is in the Soviet Union for a five-day visit.

The tank question has become a considerable source of anxiety for the Soviet high command because it believes the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe and the crumbling of the Warsaw Pact have created serious disadvantages

Beef ban in 1,000 schools

By Michael Horneby, Agriculture Correspondent

AMID continuing fears over "mad cow" disease, more than 1,000 schools and some hospitals and old people's homes were preparing to take British beef off their menus yesterday in spite of government assurances that it poses no risk to health.

Following the lead of Humberside, local authorities in West Yorkshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Liverpool, Richmond-upon-Thames and Westminster moved yesterday to banish indigenous beef.

Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told the Commons that local authorities could "continue to provide beef in school meals with complete confidence. As the minister responsible for food safety for the whole nation let me reiterate that British beef is perfectly safe. That is the view not only of our top scientists but also of European Community experts."

The measures taken by the Government against the disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), fully protected the public against "what is a remote and theoretical risk", he said.

Derbyshire County Council said that "beef products" were being removed from menus at 600 schools and at other council-run establishments. Staffordshire decided to take beef sausages, beefburgers and minced beef dishes out of school meals. Liverpool City Council was banning both British and foreign beef from 300 schools and 100 other establishments.

Kinnock in tax pledge

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

MR NEIL Kinnock last night described the control of inflation as Labour's top priority when Labour leaders approved a 20,000-word policy document which would be the blueprint for its next general election manifesto.

The Labour leader also said that the overwhelming majority of taxpayers would not be expected to pay higher taxes to help Labour's programme of national reconstructions. While the highest income earners would pay more tax "we have no design, no intention, for raising the taxation of the huge majority of ordinary people working for their living." He said that "meeting the bills of society and the economy" would come out of improved performance. "It cannot come out of an extra great slab of taxation. That would be folly."

Mr Kinnock spoke as a special meeting of Labour national executive members approved the new campaigning document which emphasizes Labour's determination to curb inflation and its changed stance towards the European Community. During a marathon meeting Mr Kinnock won a series of victories against the left.

Last night Mr Tony Benn, one of Mr Kinnock's main

Heseltine poll tax plan considered

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

INDIVIDUAL councillors voting for budgets that breach Whitehall spending limits could have to face immediate re-election under options being considered by the Government as part of its review of the operation of the community charge.

The proposal, which has the support of some senior ministers, represents a refinement of the plan put forward in *The Times* last week by Mr Michael Heseltine. It was disclosed that the review of "modifications to the community charge" would be completed in "a few weeks".

The Court of Appeal, meanwhile, overturned a judge's ruling and gave the Government leave to proceed with the charge-capping of 21 councils. The Department of the

INSIDE

Oil sludge hits shore

The first oil sludge from a slick half a mile wide came ashore on a headland near Bigbury Bay, east of Plymouth, yesterday. A big clean-up operation was being prepared to save wildlife habitats along the south Devon coast.

Five hundred tonnes of the sludge, containing 30 per cent oil, were expected to wash ashore overnight. Page 2

Life sentence

An unemployed labourer who raped and then stabbed a girl aged nine before dumping her body on a makeshift bonfire was sentenced to life imprisonment for her murder yesterday. Page 3

Exams spurned

Employers who disregard qualifications are partly to blame for the fact that fewer teenagers stay on at school after 16 in Britain than in any other European country, according to two surveys published yesterday. Page 5

Waite reaction

Government and Church of England officials reacted cautiously yesterday to reports from Beirut that Mr Terry Waite was alive and well, having recovered from a recent illness. Page 9

Hotels deal

Trusthouse Forte, Britain's biggest hotelier, has bought most of the Crest hotel chain from Bass for £300 million cash, against widespread City expectations of a price nearer £400 million. Page 23

Hendry signs

Stephen Hendry, the world snooker champion, has signed the most lucrative one-year contract in the history of the sport, worth a minimum of £250,000. Page 44

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French worker dies as tunnel toll reaches 8

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

A FRENCH construction worker on the Channel tunnel was crushed to death yesterday, a week after a British worker met a similar fate. M René Saint-Georges, aged 56, who lived in Calais, was killed by a truck carrying the huge concrete segments used to line the tunnel walls.

The Health and Safety Executive, which is responsible for monitoring the safety procedures of Transmanche Link (TML), the Anglo-French consortium building the tunnel, immediately opened an inquiry. The number of deaths since work started in 1987 is eight, six British and two French. All were hit by moving vehicles or crushed by heavy equipment.

Last week TML stopped work on the tunnel while it investigated the cause of Mr William Carter's death. A total of 327 notifiable work accidents have been registered on the British side, but there are said to be no comparable French figures.

Prince sees a challenging age for the elderly

By David Sapsed

A CHALLENGE to the elderly not to use retirement as an excuse for "stagnating and wilting", and a rallying call to society to make greater use of the skills and energies of pensioners were issued yesterday by the Prince of Wales.

He gave a warning, however, that there was a danger of a growing gap between the advantaged and disadvantaged elderly. While studies showed that many old people were better off, he said: "I fear that this could blind us to the needs of those many who have not been able to cash in on the growth of property values or the benefit of improved pensions."

Addressing the annual meeting of the Abbeyfield Society, a charity running 1,000 homes for the elderly, the Prince said: "Old age, God willing, awaits the vast majority of us, and many of its attendant problems and hardships affect rich and poor alike. By being alive to these issues now and by thinking seriously about solutions, we are surely helping ourselves."

He said there was something "rather sinister" about the way Europeans and North Americans regarded ageing. The Prince, pointing to the increasing proportion of older people in society, said that 90 per cent of those over 75 were not housebound and that nearly 80 per cent of those over 80 had no dementia of any sort.

"I believe strongly that what the statisticians call the changing demographic profile of Britain is a development which should be viewed not only as a challenge but also as a marvellous opportunity to tap skills, experience, enthusiasm and a wealth of available spare time," he said. It was an opportunity "to recognize that elderly people are needed as well as in need; are caring as well as cared for and, above all, have an invaluable and continuing contribution to make to the quality of life in the UK of the late 20th and early 21st centuries."

He added: "Old age is not the postscript to the long letter of life; it is, or could be, the final, glorious concluding chapter." But, he said, at the very moment retirement looms for a third of the adult population, the participation in a whole range of activities drops staggeringly. "People tend to take retirement seriously. They withdraw into the anterooms of society and often do little or nothing, stagnating and wilting visibly. They act out the role in which society has cast them." The Prince dared the

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Rapist who killed girl gets life sentence

By Peter Davenport

A MAN who raped and then stabbed a girl aged nine before dumping her body on a makeshift bonfire was sentenced to life imprisonment for her murder at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday.

John Heeley, aged 31, an unemployed labourer, had a long criminal history and a string of convictions, the court was told. He fled a nationwide hunt by travelling to France but was arrested several days later as he returned by ferry from Boulogne to Dover.

Heeley, of no fixed address, had denied murdering Annette Wade at her home village of Carleton, between Blackpool and Poulton-le-Fylde, on July 18 last year. The jury took two hours to find him guilty.

Mr Justice Kennedy told Heeley: "You have been convicted on overwhelming evidence of murdering a nine-year-old child. Even if it were not compulsory for me to do so, I would have no hesitation in sentencing you to prison for life. That is the sentence which I impose."

The court had been told that Annette's parents, Mr Brian Wade and his wife Mary, were careful never to let their daughter play out until they moved from Blackpool to the quiet village eight months before Annette was killed.

Mr Wade, aged 41, and his wife, of Blackpool Old Road, Carleton, were close to tears as they left the court after watching Heeley being led impassively from the dock to begin his sentence. Mr Wade had been in court throughout the trial but Mrs Wade, aged 42, arrived only to hear the verdict.

Mr Wade said: "I did not want my wife to come every day but she was determined to be with me for the summing up and for the end."

Mrs Wade said: "We warned Annette 24 hours before this happened not to talk to strangers. She always wore a 'don't talk to strangers' badge." Both she and her husband said that Heeley

should have faced the death penalty for the murder.

Witnesses gave evidence of seeing the tattooed Heeley dressed as a Red Indian loitering around the village of Carleton in the days immediately before Annette's murder.

After killing her, he hurled the body on to a makeshift bonfire near his hideaway in a thicket in a farm field close to her home. He then escaped to London in a stolen car before travelling to France.

After his arrest, he claimed he had spent the day of the killing at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and insisted he had never met Annette. In court, Heeley claimed that he was a relative of the Queen Mother and had Red Indian ancestry.

During the hunt for Annette's killer, police took the unusual step of naming Heeley because they feared he could strike again. He had made approaches to other girls in the Blackpool area in the three weeks leading up to Annette's killing, inviting at least one child into his "digs" in Caunce Street to watch pornographic videos.

One mother, who ordered him to stay away from her children, was threatened with a baseball bat and Heeley was thrown out of his accommodation because of his behaviour a few days before Annette's murder. It was then that he went to live rough.

Heeley, born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, but whose parents separated before his birth, was adopted. He later traced his natural mother but she reportedly disowned him when she heard he was being hunted for murder. He had been married but the relationship lasted for less than a year.

David John Evans, aged 32, the Welsh farm labourer jailed for 30 years last year for the abduction and sex killing of Anna Humphries, aged 15, yesterday failed in a Court of Appeal plea to challenge his murder conviction on grounds of misdirection by the judge at his trial.



Shane Field, aged three, from Charlton, south London, tries on a Second World War Air Raid Patrol helmet helped by Mr Morris Freedman, aged 68, from Slidcup, at the Age Exchange Reminiscence Centre, Blackheath, where the elderly regale children with tales of their youth

M1 crash pilots' training on new aircraft questioned

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

THE pilots of the British Midland jet that crashed on the M1, killing 47 people, had received only one day's "classroom" training on using the instruments on their new aircraft, followed by four supervised trips at the controls, it was disclosed yesterday.

The first time they had seen anything unusual on a Boeing 737-400 instrument panel was on the day they crashed. "The desirability of this is questionable," Dr Roger Green, a psychologist at the Institute of Aviation Medicine, told the Loughborough inquest.

Dr Green challenged the recent trend to have only two rather than three pilots, saying: "In my opinion, a three-man operation is inherently safer than one with two men."

Earlier, Mr John Payling, a senior air accident investigator, said a third man in the cockpit could have gone to the back of the aircraft to check what was happening to

the engines. Some jets, such as the Boeing 727 and 747, were still flying with a three-man crew, but the trend was towards a two-man operation.

The inquest was told that an identical 737-400, run by Dan-Air, had a similar engine problem five months after the Kegworth crash. In that incident, a member of the cabin crew told the pilots what he had seen.

Mr Payling said the Dan-Air crew had handled the emergency well, with deliberate decisions and no needless loss of time. They had identified the correct engine, shut it down and landed safely in exactly the same way as the crew of another British Midland jet of the same type which also suffered an identical engine failure.

He said there was no specific drill which had to be followed in the event of smoke and vibration.

"If they experience unforeseen

and totally unexpected conditions, they are expected to have the skill to analyse what has happened and reach a conclusion and take action to diagnose the true nature of the condition and then devise a procedure to overcome it."

Mr Philip Tomlinson, the coroner, asked him if he felt that the pilots of the M1 crash jet taken the right action. "No sir. The correct action was to throttle back the engine."

Mr Tomlinson asked him whether the aircraft would have been able to land properly if they had identified the correct engine as the one causing the problems. "If the first engine to have been throttled back had been the left engine, there was no evidence that there was any further hazard to the aircraft being flown to a safe landing using the serviceable right engine," Mr Payling said.

The inquest was told that Captain Kevin Hunt had a total of 7,000 hours' experience, 740 of which were on a Boeing 737-300 but only 23 on the 400 series that crashed. Mr David McClelland, the first officer, had a total of 193 hours on jet aircraft, 140 of which were on 737-300s and 53 on 400s.

Inaction claim on paedophile scare

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

LABOUR Party accusations that the Government has done nothing to counter the recent spate of attempted child-snatches by bogus social workers were rejected yesterday by the Prime Minister.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher accused the Opposition of playing cheap politics and said the Government and police were doing all they could.

She said: "It is up every single person to be always careful to support the police in their inquiries, to be on their guard to watch for these people who may come around and to check with social services at once if they have any suspicions."

Mr Clare Short, a Labour social security spokesman, had asked Mrs Thatcher: "Why has your Government done nothing about these paedophiles posing as social workers and seeking to molest children throughout the country?"

She called for action to strengthen the vice squad at New Scotland Yard, which she said was so overworked that it could not follow up positive leads.

Mrs Thatcher replied: "You know full well that everyone in this House is doing their level best to stop child abuse."

Police investigating the in-

cidents were yesterday checking the alleged identities of men and women involved (Peter Davenport writes).

Since a conference of 18 forces in Sheffield on Monday, South Yorkshire police said it had received about 100 calls from the public responding to the photofit pictures of four women and a man in some of the 60 cases around the country.

A fair-haired woman impersonating a social worker called at a house in Wantage, Oxfordshire, yesterday but had the door slammed in her face by a nanny after showing inadequate identification. She was aged about 40.

A fresh warning was issued to mothers of young children in Humberside yesterday as police appealed for help in locating a bogus woman health visitor.

The grey-haired, plump woman in her forties, 5ft 5in tall, wore a bright green costume, brown wedge-heeled shoes and carried a cream shopping bag. She told a mother of three children all aged under five in Hull on Monday that she had replaced the former visitor who had left. The woman left hurriedly when she was challenged by the mother, who then alerted the police.

Awards to young reporters

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

THE next generation of journalists must resist the temptation of sitting at computer screens and taking news from agency wires instead of seeing events at first hand, Miss Valerie Singleton, the broadcaster, told school newspaper reporters in London yesterday.

Miss Singleton was speaking at the presentation of awards at The Times/Tandon International Newspaper Day at the Science Museum, for which almost 200 school newspapers entered.

The school-age journalists had just one day to produce their newspapers using stories from The Times' computerized news system relayed to schools through the Campus 2000 network. The best newspaper award, with a top prize of a Tandon PCA computer and £175 worth of software, was won by Primary Press, produced by pupils at Lindisburgh Primary School, Louthian. The judges praised its professional and lively appearance.

A similar prize was awarded to The Kings Herald, produced by the King's School, Worcester, for best newspaper in the secondary school category.

The international section was won by Das Papier from Kooperatives Gesamtschule Elmshorn, a school in Elmshorn, West Germany, which was commended for its imaginative use of newspaper design techniques. The Times newspaper day reporter award was won by Miss Alexandra Pryde, aged 18, of Ravensbourne School, Bromley, Kent, for a feature on British Satellite Broadcasting.

Brickbats fly in the battle for tiny building society

By Jamie Dettmer

ANDY Warhol's prediction that everyone will be famous for 15 minutes has suddenly come annoyingly true for inhabitants of the Somerset market town of Frome.

A chap can hardly approach its George Hotel, in search of a pint of Wadworth's best bitter without being waylaid by a television crew or newspaper journalists and asked to pronounce on the issue of the moment: should the Frome Selwood Building Society merge with the only slightly larger Stroud & Swindon Building Society instead of the much larger Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society? "Maybe it should, maybe it shouldn't" is the most frequent reply.

But not since the celebrated Election Riot of December 1832 has this town of 23,000 seen such heat. In 1832, a Troop of the Seventh Dragoons was sent in to calm things. Nowadays, it is a telephone call from the Building Societies Commission demanding a halt to the harsh words between societies.

The issue has dominated the front page of the Somerset Standard, Frome's weekly newspaper, for months. Tomorrow, the 9,000 members of the Frome Selwood, which has one branch and assets of £47 million, will vote on the proposed merger by post or at a meeting in the town's cinema.

Eighty per cent of members live in Frome. There seems little opposition to a merger; the issue is whether the board should be rejecting an offer by the C & G, the seventh-largest society in Britain, and backing the S & S.

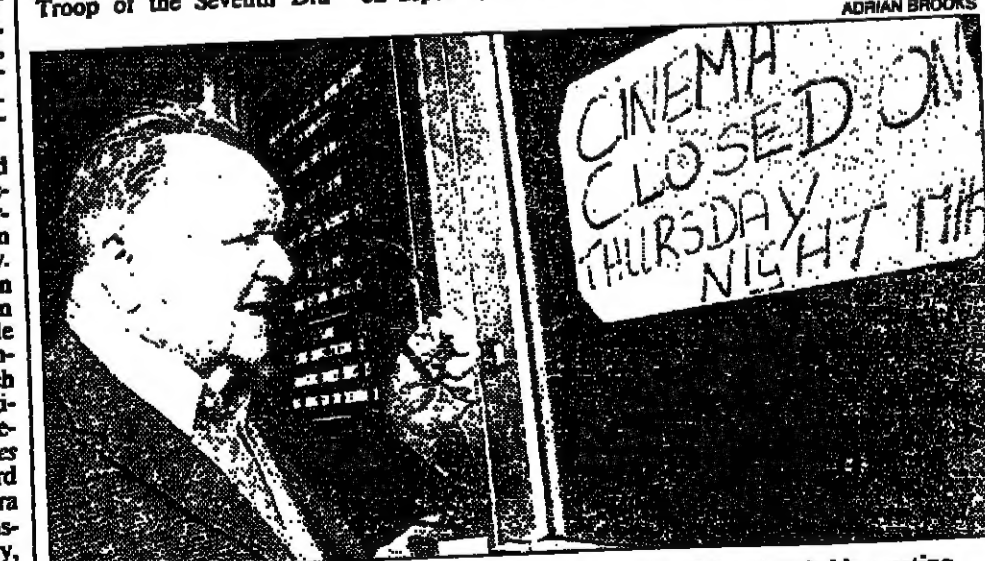
The C & G offers Frome members a 3 per cent bonus on deposits, instead of the 2

per cent offered by the S & S. The board's opponents, led by Mr Trevor Morris, a local farmer, claim that the directors only want to go with the S & S because they have been offered better personal terms.

"Grossly untrue," says its chairman, Mr Roy Walwin. "The Cheltenham & Gloucester offered us much better terms. You've heard of the unacceptable face of capitalism? Well, the Cheltenham and Gloucester is the unacceptable face of building societies. Oh dear, the commission will probably 'phone to complain."

Mr Walwin's board argues that the S & S should be backed because it is based only 40 miles from Frome. The local paper predicts that the board's view will not gain the 75 per cent majority needed. The directors remain confident of victory.

ADRIAN BROOKS



Mr Archie Bennett, aged 82, checks notices for details of the town's big meeting

Villagers sell up to escape roaring jets

By Craig Seton

AN AIRLINE captain who flew Concorde, one of the world's noisiest passenger aircraft, is among villagers from an Oxfordshire community who are selling their homes to the Ministry of Defence and moving to escape the deafening roar of military jets using a neighbouring American air force base.

The twin villages of Ardley and Fewcott, near Bicester, have been divided, literally, by the noise of aircraft taking off and landing at RAF Upper Heyford and by the ministry's scheme to buy out the homes of residents living where the noise level exceeds a minimum decibel level of 83.

While many of the homes in Ardley qualify for the buy-out scheme, however, villagers in adjoining Fewcott are ex-

cluded because the noise of F-111 fighter bombers is judged to fall below the specified level. A farmer who is desperate to sell up and leave with his family claimed that the ministry had drawn an arbitrary line between the communities on the basis of decibel readings and that homes in Fewcott were now unsaleable and, in effect, blighted.

Numerous homes in Ardley, a pretty village of Cotswold stone to the east of the base, are empty and boarded up after 14 householders sold to the ministry. Another 15 are negotiating to sell, including the owners of the local store, and there are fears that it will become a "ghost village". Some houses have been offered for rent to American servicemen.

One of those still negotiating is Captain Kit Green, aged 44, of British Airways, who was a Concorde co-pilot

and has lived in Ardley with his wife, Sue, for 14 years. They want to sell their 17th-century farmhouse, which has 12 acres, but the ministry has not agreed with the couple's £500,000 valuation. Captain Green, who now trains pilots, said noise from aircraft taking off from the base became much worse in June 1988 when the flight path was changed on safety grounds.

Mr Peter Godwin and his wife, Julie, who live at Manor Farm, Fewcott, said their £250,000 home was only half a mile from the end of the base runway but the decibel level there had been measured at 78 and fell below the qualifying figure. He claimed the ministry had drawn up an average figure, which did not represent the peak of aircraft noise.

Parliament, page 8

Railmen 'at fault in fatal crash'

By Kerry Gill

THE actions of a tram driver and a guard contributed to an accident that killed two people and injured 54 outside Bellgrove Station, Glasgow, last year, an official accident report said yesterday.

The report, however, also called for a review of operating procedures and driver performance by British Rail in the wake of the head-on crash of two suburban electric trains at Bellgrove Junction.

Mr Robin Seymour, chief inspecting officer of railways, and Mr Arwyn Williams, principal inspector in Glasgow, said that an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system should be installed to prevent trains passing danger signals.

In the crash, on March 6, 1989, Mr Hugh Keenan, aged 62, one of the drivers, and Mr Robert McCaffrey aged 58, a passenger, were killed.

The inspectors attached no blame to Mr Keenan, driver of the west-bound Springburn-to-Milngavie train, but said of the east-bound Milngavie-to-Springburn train: "We conclude that the immediate cause of the accident was that Driver [Joe] McCaffrey drove the up-train past the starting signal at Bellgrove Station, at danger. Contributory causes were that Guard [Robert] Bain signalled the driver that the train was ready to start, without having first checked the aspect of the starting signal."

The inspectors doubted that the BR rule book was "sufficiently clear as to the relative responsibilities of driver and guard", and said that there was no other effective safeguard against a train passing a danger signal.

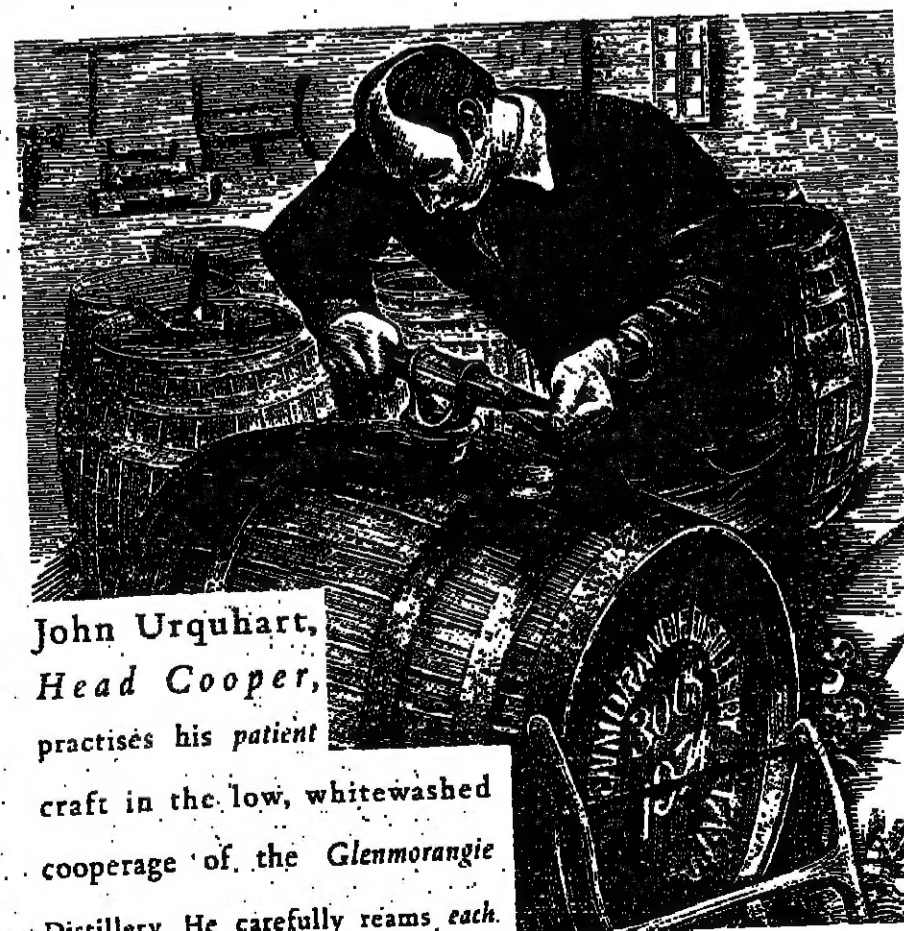
A form of ATP exists on the London Underground, and British Rail is planning to introduce a system for main-line services.

Mr Jim Summers, Scotrail's operations manager, said: "British Rail contracts worth £10 million have been awarded to develop and supply two pilot automatic train protection systems. Scotrail is looking closely at the wording in the rule book and at the arrangements to monitor the performance of drivers."

The Director of Public Prosecutions has decided that no proceedings should be taken against anyone over a train crash in April last year, at Holton Heath, near Poole, Dorset, in which Mr Ronald Brooker, aged 47, was killed when the locomotive he was driving crashed into the rear of a freight train.

NUMBER XI. OF BUNGHOLE AND HOGSHEADS (OR... ROBBING THE ANGELS).

GLENMORANGIE
10 YEARS OLD
SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY



John Urquhart, Head Cooper, practises his patient

craft in the low, whitewashed cooperage of the Glenmorangie

Distillery. He carefully reams, each bunghole to a PERFECT fit. Johnny acknowledges that during the malt's TEN YEARS in the wood, much will be 'lost to the angels' through evaporation; but why, he reasons, should they receive more than their due share?

HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN OF TAIN.

Fear of the unknown feeds public concern over BSE safety

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

THE most worrying thing about "mad cow" disease, whose spectre is stalking the British cattle industry, is not what we know about it but what we still do not know. The experts disagree so it is no wonder that the layman is confused. There may be no firm evidence of a risk to humans but equally there is no clear evidence to the contrary and there may not be for some years.

This leaves the Government facing a dilemma: how far should it go in taking precautions, which at one extreme would require the destruction of the majority of British cattle, against risks which are largely still no more than conjecture and may turn out to be non-existent? What follows is an attempt to summarize the present state of knowledge.

What is bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)? BSE is a fatal brain disease of cattle. It can be incubated for five years or more. Visible symptoms, which include aggressive behaviour and unsteadiness of gait, appear only in the terminal stages. There is no means yet of testing for certain whether a live animal has the condition or is carrying the agent. This can be

confirmed only by a post-mortem examination of the brain under powerful electron microscopes which show sponge-like holes and tell-tale "fibrils" in the tissue. The first case of BSE was diagnosed in late 1986 and the disease has been confirmed in some 13,100 cattle since then. New cases are being reported at a rate of 200-250 a week. Nearly all are cows. No case of cow-to-calf transmission of the disease in the womb has yet been reported but some experts think it may be possible.

How did cattle get BSE?

The working party headed by Sir Richard Southwood, Linacre Professor of Zoology at Oxford University, which reported to the Government in February last year, cited high-protein feed containing the remains of sheep infected with scrapie as the most likely cause. That has been accepted by most other scientists. Scrapie, the name for spongiform encephalopathy in sheep, has been around for at least 200 years. Post-war intensive farming methods led to the inclusion of significant quantities of sheep material in feed concentrate for cattle. Professor Southwood also suggested that changes in the early 1980s in the methods used to process sheep waste

may have made it easier for the scrapie agent to survive.

Why has BSE appeared only in the British Isles?

Most experts think it is likely that BSE does exist elsewhere but has not yet been reported or diagnosed.

What is the agent that causes BSE?

One of the main problems is that the causative agent has not yet been identified. "We loosely call it a virus, but it is not a virus in any normal sense of the term," according to Dr David Tyrrell, the Medical Research Council virologist who chairs an advisory committee on BSE set up by the Government. "If only we could understand the nature of the beast, we could get a molecular handle on it and use modern methods to control it. Work on identifying the agent has to be one of the main priorities for research." One theory is that the organism is some kind of rogue protein that takes over the cells of living matter.

Do other animals get it? Forms of spongiform encephalopathy have occurred naturally, or been induced in the laboratory, in species including antelope, mice, goats, mink and cats.

Can human beings catch it? A related illness, Creutzfeldt-Jakob

disease (CJD), kills about 30 people a year in England and Wales. Tribesmen in New Guinea have contracted another form of the condition, called kuru, through cannibalism. The incidence of CJD is largely the same in all countries where it occurs, including those free of scrapie. There is even a recorded case of the disease in a life-long vegetarian. Human exposure to scrapie in sheep over at least 200 years thus does not appear generally to have increased the frequency of the illness.

What worries scientists is the possibility that humans may be less resistant to BSE because the causative agent may have undergone some kind of change in moving from sheep to cattle, a transfer considered to be unlikely until it happened. Work is being done on marmoset monkeys, which have a nervous system similar to that of humans, to see if they can be infected by injecting BSE-contaminated tissue into their brains. A long-term programme to monitor more closely the incidence of CJD has also begun. Most scientists agree that the risk of BSE being transmissible to humans is "remote".

Is British beef safe to eat? The Government insists that it is. All

cattle which show BSE symptoms must be destroyed. As an extra precaution, bovine offal containing brain, spinal cord tissue, spleen, thymus, tonsils and intestines is banned for human consumption and must be stripped out of carcasses at the slaughterhouse. The infective agent is thought to travel through these organs in the early stages of the disease, when no outward symptoms are visible, before ending up in the brain. Professor Richard Lacey, the Leeds University microbiologist, argues that this is not enough because the infective agent might be lurking in nerve tissue in the meat itself and not just the offal.

He argues that wherever a case of BSE is diagnosed the entire herd should be destroyed, a policy which would wipe out half the national cattle population. The scientific consensus is that such extreme action would not be justified. There is concern, however, that slaughterhouse workers may not be as careful as they should in removing offal.

Has the Government done all it should? Many experts think the Government has responded too slowly and would like to see a number of possible loopholes

closed. BSE was declared a notifiable disease a full 18 months after it was first diagnosed. The suspect offals were banned only last November and those from animals under six months old can still be sold for human consumption because it is assumed that the disease cannot develop in so short a time. Only now is the Government reconsidering whether it should cull the offspring of BSE-infected cows to guard against the possibility that the disease can be maternally transmitted. There is no formal ban on the use of sheep and other animal protein in feed for pigs, poultry, cats and dogs. Manufacturers say they are observing a voluntary ban on the use of offals condemned for human consumption which do not include those from sheep.

How soon can BSE be eradicated?

If feed containing sheep protein, which has been banned since July 1988, was the cause, and if those animals which ate it are the "dead-end hosts", then the last cases of BSE should occur in the mid-1990s. However, if the disease proves to be transmissible from cow to calf — on the model of scrapie, which can pass from ewes to lambs — then BSE could be with us for ever.

Managers go in new wave of dismissals

By Tim Jones, Employment Correspondent

MANAGERS were put in the front line of redundancy with the announcement yesterday that 900 posts are to go at BHS, the former British Home Stores chain.

More than 12,000 jobs in the past month have now been shed throughout British industry as companies "rationalize" their trading positions and unions ignore government warnings that high wage demands will lead to unemployment.

The trend comes in the wake of a Confederation of British Industry warning earlier this month that 54,000 jobs, 18,000 a month, would disappear in the next three months as British manufacturers struggled to remain competitive in the face of rising costs.

With government figures to be released tomorrow expected to show a decline in the number of jobs being created, the announcement of BHS redundancies points to a "huge rationalization" of middle management.

Mr David Dworkin, chairman of Storehouse, the parent company, said: "Over the recent years BHS has been too bureaucratic and top-heavy and this has got in the way of service to our customers."

In Scotland yesterday, Anderson Longwall, a division of the mining and tunnelling equipment manufacturers, Anderson Group, announced that it is to make up to 90 of its office, managerial and ancillary staff redundant at its Motherwell and Sheffield plants.

While the retail and service sector is clearly in the forefront of the new wave of redundancies, job losses are now affecting the whole strata of society from coal face miners to estate agents as companies trim staff to face increasingly hostile market conditions.

Although some companies, such as BP, use the jargon — "reducing organizational complexity" — to soften the

blow of dismissing more than 1,000 workers, it is still dismissal by another name and is part of a pattern which threatens to halt in its tracks the record period of 44 months of falling unemployment.

Even before the CBI forecast, Next, the high street retailer, announced last month an expected 2,000 redundancies. Boots the Chemist, part of the retail group which includes Halfords and Payless, has also said it is cutting 500 supervisory and managerial jobs in 219 of its larger stores.

One of the biggest employment blows was delivered earlier this month when British Telecom announced a sweeping restructuring which will lead to the departure of between 4,000 and 5,000 of its managerial and professional workforce, earning £20,000 to £30,000, after "an internal strategic review".

Last week, Imperial Tobacco, Britain's second largest cigarette manufacturer, announced it was cutting 1,200 jobs as part of a move to defend its market position and compete effectively after tax changes in the European market.

In the car industry, Ford said it would shed 2,600 jobs over five years at its Halewood plant on Merseyside as part of a drive to meet Japanese competition and Rover announced plans to lay off 1,200 workers because of disappointing sales of the 800 Sterling range.

In the property industry, more jobs were lost as high mortgage rates continued to depress the market. Prudential Corporation, the largest institutional owner of property in the UK, shed 120 of its 380 property team, joining a long list of related concerns that have cut staff.

In South Wales, British Coal closed the Blaenau pit, with the loss of 577 jobs. More are likely to follow.

City speculation, page 23

IRA bomb might have been set at weekend

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Correspondent

THE IRA time bomb which exploded at the Army's directorate of education at Elham, south-east London, might have been planted during the weekend when the site was closed, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

As officers continued to search the scene, Scotland Yard again urged the public to come forward with any information or suspicious sightings in the area. The yard's anti-terrorist branch is waiting for details from forensic scientists on the type of timer used in the bomb.

At weekends, the directorate's offices are locked but not guarded apart from checks by visiting guards. Police said that the IRA has used weekends to carry out other attacks. Burying a bomb is a common terrorist ploy in Northern Ireland but one never before used on mainland Britain.

Mr Trevor Hills, aged 47, who received back and leg injuries in the explosion, was transferred from a civilian to a military hospital yesterday. Looking tired and weak, he described from his hospital bed the events when he was thrown across his office by the force of the blast 10ft away and buried under rubble.

He said: "I just remember working at my desk with a bit of sunshine coming through the window. Suddenly I woke up to an enormous nightmare. My colleagues found me under a pile of rubble."

Mr Hills, married with two children, who began work with the Ministry of Defence two years ago, is in charge of resettling service personnel into civilian life. He said that he was "fairly comfortable, making progress but in great pain".

As security was tightened at bases around the country after the explosion, a Royal Marines camp at Norton Manor, Somerset, was put on alert yesterday after a marine found a hole big enough for a man to get through cut in the perimeter fence.

Nothing was discovered in a search of the camp, which normally houses 40 Commando. The ministry said that the perimeter of the camp was patrolled but it did not know when the hole was cut.

Family's forgotten silver up for sale

DES JENSON

FOUR pieces of silver that lay unclaimed in a bank vault for over a century are expected to make up to £950,000 at Christie's in London on May 23 (John Shaw writes).

A basin, ewer and pair of Queen Anne wine coolers were originally part of the display and ambassadorial plate of Thomas Wentworth, Baron Raby and third Earl of Strafford (1672-1739), a distinguished soldier and diplomat. A descendant deposited them in strong boxes at Glyn Mills and Co, Lombard Street in 1859. However, both he and his executor died shortly afterwards. The bank tried unsuccessfully to trace other descendants.

A century later, a member of the family claimed the silver and a descendant of the claimant is selling the pieces at auction. The sale comes as interest in silver is growing. A 17th-century Sicilian table fountain made \$1.98 million (£1.2 million), a record for any piece of silver, in New York on April 19.

The group on offer was made by David Williams (1658-1741) a leading Huguenot craftsman. The ewer and 26in diameter basin date from 1705. Each bears the royal arms with engraving attributed to John Rollos (£400,000-£600,000). The heavily decorated coolers bear the arms of Wentworth and Johnson and date from 1710 (£250,000-£350,000).

Every amateur coin collector dream came true yesterday for two enthusiasts who saw a hoard of 324 12th-century silver coins sell for £26,037 at Christie's in London.

Mr Merryn Bone, aged 27, a carpenter and Mr Russell Chamberlain, aged 55, an electrician, both of Norwich, found the pennies, halfpennies and farthings while metal detecting on a farm near Wymondham, Norfolk, in April last year.

The coins were part of a group of 482. The British Museum has acquired 158. It will pay the men the market price for them assessed by an independent tribunal. The coins come from the reigns of Henry I, Stephen and Henry II.

The star of the coin sale, however, was a rare proof 20 yen Japanese coin by Mutsuhito (1867-1912). It has a dragon design on one side, a sunburst on the other and more than doubled its high estimate to go to an anonymous telephone bidder for £104,500.



Miss Franca da Mosto of Christie's with three of the unclaimed pieces to be sold

BBC urged to show poll

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

THE chairman of the Conservative party yesterday demanded that the BBC should broadcast a poll which apparently showed support for Mrs Thatcher's leadership but was not transmitted as expected.

Mr Kenneth Baker wrote to the BBC requesting that the results of the poll on the party leadership, carried out among 268 Conservative councillors, be broadcast on next Sunday's

edition of the BBC1 programme *On the Record*.

In his letter to Mr Michael Checkland, director general of the BBC, Mr Baker said that the poll had shown "extremely favourable attitudes" towards the Prime Minister's leadership and that those questioned had been told the results would appear in *On the Record* on May 6.

The findings of the poll, carried out by Harris Research

Centre, had not been broadcast and the BBC's explanation had been that the sample size was not sufficient. Mr Baker said this had been categorically denied by Harris.

The poll was carried out immediately after the local government elections earlier this month.

Conservative MPs complained that the BBC had suppressed the poll and was guilty of political bias.

Woman dies in food scare

A woman has died and four people are ill after an outbreak of suspected food poisoning at a home for the elderly in Walsall, West Midlands. The residents fell ill on the same day last week.

Walsall Health Authority said that salmonella poisoning was the most likely cause of the outbreak, which seemed to have been contained. Samples of food have been taken for analysis and investigations are continuing.

Diesel down

Shell is to cut the price of diesel by 3.2p a gallon from tomorrow, from an average of 178.7p to 175.5p, because of lower international prices. Other oil companies are expected to follow suit.

Man survives

A man who jumped in front of a train on the Birmingham-Leamington line yesterday survived after the train's life-guard mechanism, which shifts debris from the track, pushed him into the middle of the lines allowing the train to go straight over him.

Drought fine

Tinsley (Bramston) Farms, of Bransford, Lincolnshire, was fined £2,000 at Lincoln Crown Court yesterday after admitting illegally taking water from a river during last summer's drought.

Guiding hands

Hundreds of girls may have to quit the Guide movement in Nottinghamshire because of a shortage of leaders. A spokeswoman said: "The problem is that women these days have less time to devote to interests outside work and the home."

Cats set free

The Animal Liberation Front has said that it stole two Scottish wildcats from Paignton Zoo, Devon, and has released them in the Highlands. The zoo said that the animals, bred in captivity, will not survive in the wild.

Sailor lands

Mr Henk de Velde arrived in Falmouth, Cornwall, yesterday after sailing single-handed around the world on a diet of muesli. His 159-day trip was, however, nine days outside the record. He is looking forward to a good meal.

Extracts from the Prince of Wales' speech

THIS is an abridged text of the Prince of Wales' speech to the Abbeyfield Society yesterday.

Old age, God willing, awaits the vast majority of us and many of its attendant problems and hardships affect rich and poor alike. By thinking seriously about solutions, we are surely helping ourselves.

Although I find it quite ridiculous to brand, say, a 35-year-old, as untrainable because allegedly his or her poor old brain can't cope, there is something rather sinister about it, too, and indeed, symptomatic of the way we in this country and, it must be said, those in the USA and much of Western Europe too, regard the process of ageing.

I was told that a glance at Roger's Thesaurus on the word "age" would tell me something about the way we are all conditioned to think about ageing. So I glanced — page 48 in the paperback version, if anyone else wants to do so: "Aged — adjective, old, elderly, matronly, not so young as one was, no chicken, balding, hoary headed, moribund, wrinkled, rheumy eyed, toothless, palsied, drivelling, doddering and dotting." Can this really be a fair reflection of the word when 90 per cent of those over 75 are not housebound?

The changing demographic profile of Britain is a development which should be



The Prince of Wales yesterday: "Old age could be the final, glorious, concluding paragraph"

viewed not only as a challenge but also as a marvellous opportunity to tap skills, experience, enthusiasm and a wealth of available spare time: to recognize that elderly people are needed as well as in need: are caring as well as being cared for and, above all, have an invaluable and continuing contribution to make to the quality of life.

Millions of people can enjoy a long last phase of life, free of those normal adult commitments. I was staggered to learn that their number in the UK is

work and raising a family, the Third Age of active independence and the Fourth Age of dependence, and dignity.

But for many people the Third Age offers an interesting opportunity: the pursuit of choice. And the challenge is, in part, how do we offer these millions some opportunity to find the right mix of leisure with constructive and worthwhile activity? How to provide a chance for third agers to realize their best self and to appreciate the dynamic of old age instead of, as so often, mourning its distresses?

The paradox is that at the very moment when this grand abundance of choice opens up, participation in all kinds of activities, from educational courses to going for a walk, drops staggeringly. People often do little or nothing. They act out the role in which society has cast them.

But we need a much greater initiative to encourage more, many more, to become involved in the many fields where volunteers could make a considerable contribution. Here is a magnificent opportunity to stop seeing age in mainly negative terms.

But I am well aware that no matter how well intentioned, many initiatives will not prove attractive to all third agers. Some may be put off by what they fear is intrusive and unwelcome regimentation. There is also a real danger that

others may be deterred because the efforts to involve them appear patronizing, and sometimes are. But to many people in the Third Age, there are possibilities and fresh challenges that could give life a real purpose and meaning.

My only concern about emphasizing the possibilities for the third ager is that I may appear to be belittling the very real problems faced by the elderly, or that I may seem to have forgotten about the growing millions of infirm, frail and lonely people, or that I am ignoring the millions of carers and volunteers whose selflessness and dedication sometimes beggar description. I am not.

I am only too aware of their real and growing needs. It is a harsh and terrible fact that so many old people are lonely. Probably more than anything else, loneliness kills hope and spirit. And while I am greatly encouraged by the number of studies which point out that many older people are and will be better off than before and better able to make provision for the day they finally cross the threshold between the third and fourth ages, I fear that this could blind us to the needs of those many who have not been able to cash in on the growth of property values or the benefit of improved pensions. There is a very real risk that the less fortunate will be left behind.

Picture of healthy, wealthy old age masks disparities

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A GLANCE at statistics over recent decades suggests that the elderly are wealthier, healthier and fitter than they have ever been.

The general figures, however, conceal groups of disabled and chronically sick pensioners and some elderly people who are worse off in real terms. In addition, many pensioners are already caring for dependants which stops them doing more for the community.

Figures from the Department of Social Security show that pensioners' gross incomes rose by 53 per cent in real terms between 1971 and 1986. Fewer pensioners work now than in the 1970s, but the fall in earnings as a proportion of total income has been more than offset by occupational pensions which accounted for a fifth of pensioners' incomes in 1986. Pensioners' incomes from investment and savings rose by 60 per cent in real terms between 1971 to 1986, according to the latest issue of *Social Trends*.

Figures supplied yesterday by Help the Aged show that the number of pensioners on state benefits fell from 24 per cent to 20 per cent between 1979 and 1986; half received income from an occupational pension, 70 per cent had

investment income and 40 per cent had both an occupational pension and investment income.

Nearly two million pensioners receive income support which they are entitled to if they receive only the state pension but a further one million are eligible and do not claim it. Help the Aged also estimates that 3.7 million people rely on an income that is only marginally above the benefit levels of £48.50 for a single person and £75.55 for a couple.

Pensioners tend to be found in the lowest fifth of national income distribution. Forty-six per cent of pensioners are in the lowest income group.

There are wide disparities between the wealthiest and poorest. Figures published in a parliamentary answer two months ago show that the income of the poorest fifth increased by 19 per cent between 1979 and 1987 compared with a 44 per cent rise in the highest fifth.

Claims that older people are now more healthy are largely backed by figures for longevity. Although England still falls well behind most developed countries in longevity rates, the life expectancy of a boy born in 1986 is 23 years longer (71) than if he had been

born at the beginning of the century.

Over the same period, the numbers of elderly people have more than trebled (to 12 million) as has the proportion of the population over 65.

Many of the diseases which caused premature death earlier this century such as cholera, typhoid and polio have largely been eradicated or controlled by vaccine. Yet rates of lung cancer and breast cancer among women have increased notably. Improvements in health care, health education, housing and nutrition are also thought to have contributed to a longer life.

The General Household Survey 1988 suggests that day to day living conditions improved in many elderly households from 1980 to 1985. For example, the proportion of one-person households with central heating rose from 45 per cent to 59 per cent during the period and 69 per cent of such households have a telephone, 48 per cent have a washing machine and 90 per cent have a refrigerator.

Yet more elderly people are living on their own and there is evidence that these people are more likely to suffer from long-term illness and disability.

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Employers accused of undermining sixth forms

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

EMPLOYERS who undermine educational qualifications are partly to blame for the fact that fewer teenagers stay on at school after 16 in Britain than in any other European country, according to two surveys published yesterday.

The lure of a good salary and ignorance about the benefits of remaining in full-time education after 16 were also highlighted by researchers who interviewed 700 teenagers and 100 employers in the London Docklands.

The surveys, conducted by MORI and the Research and Statistics Branch of the former Inner London Education Authority, found that while more than two-thirds of teenagers said they wanted to stay on after 16 only two-fifths actually did so.

Most of those who left school at 16 said they were motivated by the need to earn a salary. Two thirds had little idea about what would be on offer if they entered the sixth form or went to college. While

two-thirds of teenagers thought that qualifications were the most important factor in gaining a job, three-quarters of employers rated appearance, enthusiasm, punctuality and the ability to speak well as more important.

As well as placing little value on educational qualifications, two-thirds of employers offered no training to school leavers and only an eighth had any links with their local schools.

The studies found that the highest staying-on rates were among Afro-Caribbean teenagers (91 per cent) and those from Asian backgrounds (82 per cent). White children were the least likely to stay on after 16 (55 per cent).

The most powerful inducement to remain in the education system, the survey found, was a "role model", in the shape of a friend or relative who had stayed on at school or college. Among teenagers who knew personally someone who had been to polytechnic or university, 85 per cent stayed on at school.

The surveys did, however, provide support for the development of "Compacts" in which employers guarantee jobs to teenagers in return for good examination performance, regular school attendance and satisfactory behaviour.

In six schools in Tower Hamlets, which joined the original London Compact launched by the Prince of Wales in 1987, the staying-on rate had since risen from 35.6 per cent to 52 per cent. Compacts are now being actively promoted by ministers as part of the Government's strategy for inner cities.

Mr Peter Box, chairman of the London Education Business Partnership, which co-ordinates the six Compact schemes in London, said the surveys showed there was no room for complacency. He urged teachers and businesses to do all in their power to encourage pupils aged 16 to take advantage of educational opportunities.

Less able children are being let down by schools and often turn to truancy and vandalism because they believe there is nothing to keep them in the classroom, a conference of industrialists was told yesterday.

Professor Alan Smithers, of Manchester University's School of Education, told a Confederation of British Industry conference in London that many teenagers unable to keep up with academic demands were rebelling against the system. Schools would have to review their lessons if the problem were to be resolved.

He said: "Involving young people more in education and training would be good for them, good for the country — and good, ultimately, for the supply of graduates."

Schools should put more emphasis on vocational skills, he said. "It is hoped that the academic and the vocational would grow together into a common framework, breaking down the current snobbish attitude to vocational qualifications and hopefully moving towards parity of esteem."

Conflict on opera debt is settled

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

THE dispute over the Royal Opera House's plan for a second year of deficit funding, so that it is more than £5 million in the red, has been defused.

In announcing the company's 1990-91 programme, Mr Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, said it would not compromise artistic standards by making further cuts, and that it would go £2 million into deficit, on top of last year's £3.3 million. Mr Peter Palumbo, the Arts Council chairman, responded by writing to the Royal Opera House chairman, Lord Sainsbury, saying the council would not commit funds to any organization that deliberately "spent itself into deficit".

But yesterday, Mr Anthony Everitt, acting secretary-general of the Arts Council, said: "We have been given useful reassurances." The Royal Opera House had made "swingeing cuts" to keep the 1990-91 deficit to £2 million.

The Arts Council and the Opera House board were working together to find a solution to the problem. Other "flagship" clients, such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and the English National Opera, faced similar worries.



Elly Waller (left) and Molly Withers, both aged three, meet Jane Oliver portraying a 1760 socialite, a Macaroni, in 'The Picture Parade' in Soho yesterday held to mark the progress of The Spirit of Soho Mural, to be sited beside the Soho Street Theatre

Curb on legal aid options sparks protest

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to deny defendants the freedom to choose whether to be represented by a barrister or a solicitor in legal aid cases came under attack yesterday from legal and consumer groups.

In a protest marked by its wide support from across the profession — the Bar, the Law Society and the Legal Action Group — the Government was warned it was creating a second-class service for those on legal aid.

The Government has tabled an amendment to the Courts and Legal Services Bill which allows legal aid representation, even in higher court cases, to be limited to one lawyer. The move, the most controversial since the Bill started its passage in the House of Commons, reverses the effect of a change secured in the House of Lords by Lord Mishcon, which was designed to ensure that reforms which allow solicitors to take cases in the higher courts would not be used to deny legal-aid clients the right in crown court cases to be represented by a barrister if they choose.

Mr David Ward, the President of the Law Society, said that the aim of the Bill was to widen choice. The Govern-

ment's amendment, however, "is an attempt to restrict the choice of the legally-aided client and to put him at a disadvantage, compared with the privately-funded one".

Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, chairman of the Bar, said that the amendment would "condemn to a second-class service those who cannot afford to pay for their legal representation". The right to a barrister on legal aid was essential.

He said that if the amendment was not withdrawn, the Bar would join the Law Society and the consumer groups to urge the Commons committee now examining the Bill to defeat the amendment.

Criticism of the Government's move, in an amendment tabled by the Attorney General, also came from the Consumers' Association, which said the aim of the Bill was to give the consumer the widest possible choice of legal services. The amendment was a cost-cutting device that would reduce choice.

The Lord Chancellor's Department denied, however, that the move was designed to save money. "We are not reducing the amount of legal aid, just ensuring legal aid is used cost-effectively," it said.

Avon loses school 'opt out' challenge

By David Tytler
Education Editor

THE Government won its battle yesterday to allow Beechen Cliff School, Bath, to opt out of local authority control after a long legal fight with Avon County Council. Three Court of Appeal judges refused to overturn the decision of Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to give the 800-pupil boys' school grant-maintained status.

Avon, which may appeal, had argued that its school re-organization plan which would have reopened Beechen Cliff as a sixth form college, but was rejected by Mr MacGregor, was necessary to meet the needs of all pupils in the area. A previous court hearing ruled that Mr MacGregor should reconsider his decision taking this into account.

He insisted that the school be allowed to opt out from this April and the county council mounted a second, but this time unsuccessful, challenge. Lord Justice Mustill said the reasons for the court's "unanimous" decision would be given later.

Welcoming the decision, Mr MacGregor said: "I am very pleased for the school. It is now for the governors and staff of Beechen Cliff to ensure the success of their school." The Beechen Cliff case was the first legal challenge to the education secretary's powers to allow schools to opt out under the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Mr Roy Ludlow, head of Beechen Cliff, said: "I am absolutely delighted. It is a wonderful day for me, for Beechen Cliff and for the children of Bath." Dr Christopher Saville, Avon's Director of Education, said he was "very disappointed".

Young drinkers get identity card

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

A NATIONAL "proof of age" identity card scheme to deter under-age drinking and to help licensees to stay within the law was launched in London and six regional cities yesterday.

The scheme has the support of the police and the Government as well as 95 per cent of brewers, the Licensed Victuallers' Association and 23 large off-licence and supermarket chains. The project's sponsor, the Portman Group, has the support of eight leading drinks firms. They accepted, however, that the scheme was not a panacea for the problem of under-age drinking, believed by some experts to have links with teenage crime and alcoholism among adults.

Alcohol Concern said that there was an equally pressing need for the drinks industry to produce more "responsible" advertising and for its products to be taxed more highly.

About half a dozen card schemes already operating are expected to be swallowed up by the national card scheme. Some 111,000 licensees have been supplied with application forms for the cards and 1,500 have already been issued. The issue of the cards,



Dr John Rae: Solution lies not in moral panic

each stamped with the holder's photograph, name and date of birth, is being monitored by a computer programme to check for incorrect or repeat applications. Launching the scheme, Dr John Rae, the Portman Group's director, said the relatively small number of prosecutions for under-age drinking — about 700 last year — gave a misleading picture of the true scale of the problem.

He said that the solution lay with determined, consistent counter-measures, not "moral panic". Although surveys showed that most youngsters had tried alcohol at least once by the age of 12, only a minority drank to excess.

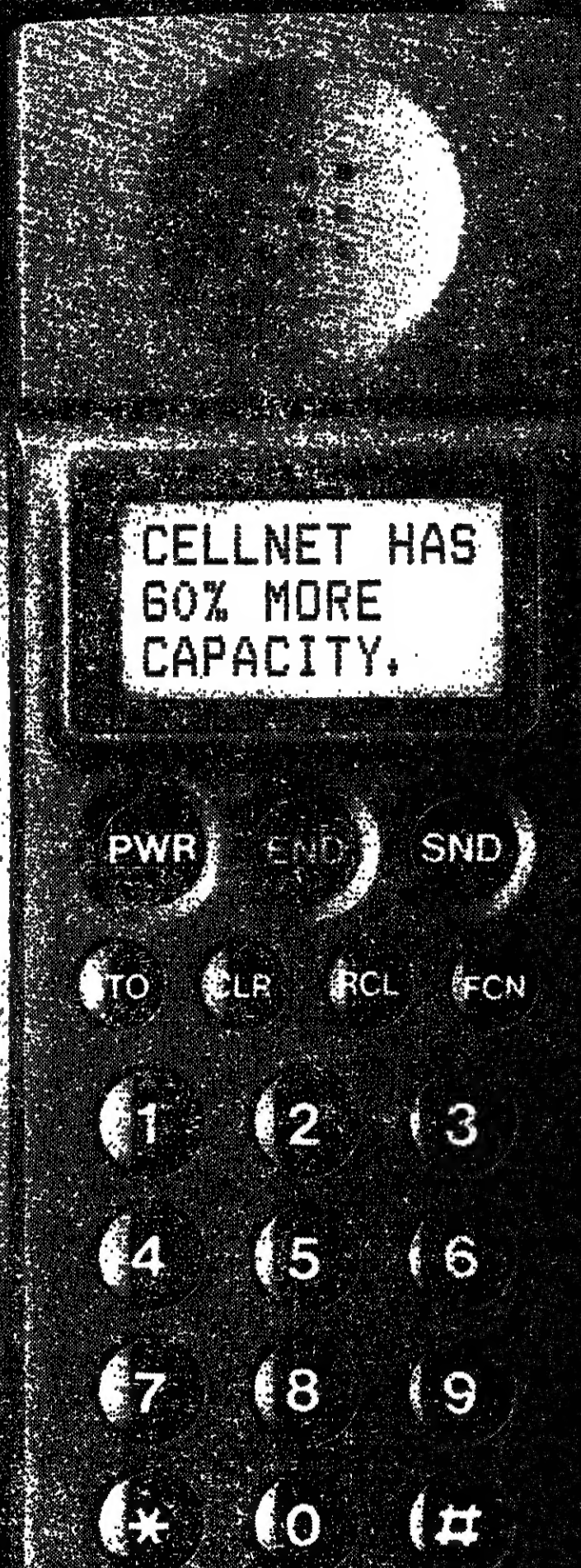
The Swire Group

Daily Non-Stop London to Hong Kong

From the 15th of June, Cathay Pacific offers you a better way to fly to Hong Kong. A daily non-stop London-Hong Kong service. With the care and attention provided by our Oriental flight attendants, it's the service you'll prefer. So now, when you want to arrive in better shape there's no stopping you. For full details of our daily evening (non-stop) and morning (one-stop) services from London, see your travel agent or call us on 071-930 7878.

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CONVERSATION PIECE.



Until now, cellphones have been more of a sell than a phone.

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Labour attacks training decision

THERE had been an alarming shift of emphasis in the Government's attitude to training since Mr Michael Howard replaced Sir Norman Fowler as Secretary of State for Employment earlier this year, Mrs Margaret Beckett, shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told MPs.

Speaking during the first day of the committee stage of the Finance Bill, she said that Sir Norman had laid down a framework for training and had set the Government strategic targets.

Mr Howard, however, was saying that progress in training now depended on action outside Government and there could be no specific government targets.

His consistent theme was not how great was the need for training, but how well Britain was doing.

That was an alarming shift in emphasis. The CBI had pointed out that skill levels were lower than in most comparable countries and the gap was widening. Others argued that Britain was further down the ladder of countries providing training.

It seemed that the Government was in a state of repugnant denial that it had made in other areas, of taking up a perfectly reasonable policy — in this case encouraging employers to greater efforts to provide training — and using it as an excuse to shuffle the part of responsibility that properly belonged to Government.

Those involved in the training and enterprise councils were devastated by the Government's withdrawal of funds. The chambers of commerce were disturbed that the Government was turning off the funding long before employers had decided to turn their tap on.

She moved a series of amendments to allow employers to retain tax relief where they were contributing to training, and also sending employers to the TECs.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) said that Miss Beckett believed that taxpayers should make further direct contributions towards training. "We believe there should be a partnership in responsibility for training between the Government and industry," The Bill gave additional tax relief and more encouragement to employers, who had a real responsibility for training.

Mr James Wallace, Liberal Democrat spokesman on employment, said that business had shown itself inadequate in providing training, and many of the people at the top knew precious little about the subject.

Mr Peter Lilley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that it was estimated that £20 billion a year was being spent by private industry on training.

The Government accepted the spirit of these amendments, but felt they were unnecessary and might bring in unintended complications.

The amendments were rejected by 244 votes to 152 — Government majority, 92.

Results of poll tax review 'in few weeks'

RESULTS of the government review of the community charge are to be announced in a few weeks time, the Prime Minister said at question time in the Commons yesterday.

She said that the modifications would not include the problem of structure of local authorities. That was for longer-term consideration.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, asked her to acknowledge that last week's higher inflation figures were largely the result of higher interest rates, higher mortgage rates, higher rent and poll tax.

"Will she confirm that those are all directly her policies and accept that she is not just the Prime Minister of inflation but the prime cause of inflation?"

Mrs Thatcher: Local councils set community charge (Labour protests). If local councils had not overspent to the tune of £3 billion, retail price index would be 1 per cent lower. The biggest overspenders are Labour, so he (Mr Kinnock) bears some of the blame.

Mr Kinnock said that the main components of rising inflation were identified as being a consequence of government policies, and she was trying to blame everybody else. If she was trying, as she said, to squeeze out inflation, why did she spend so much time trying to cram it in with higher mortgage and interest rates and poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: Labour policy (Labour protests) is to persuade Labour councils to set the community charge as high as they can get away with. The retail price index would be much lower but for community charge, and lower also if community charge had had rebates taken off it and housing rents had had the rebates lower, as they were in Labour's time.

Earlier, Sir William Clark (Croydon South, C) asked her to compare the actions of Hillingdon and Merton London borough councils.

"At Hillingdon, which has just become Conservative-controlled, the community charge has been reduced by £70 this year, whereas, at Merton, which has become Labour-controlled, they have promised to double the community charge next year."

"If we are looking at Labour-controlled councils in London, the average community charge is £445, whereas in Conservative-controlled London councils it is £294."

Mrs Thatcher agreed. Conservative councils not only cost less but also gave better service. Many of them had increased the

PRIME MINISTER

amount spent on education, and the care of elderly and handicapped people. "Conservative councils cost you less and give you much better service and benefits."

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C): Without pre-empting the conclusions of the most welcome review of community charge now being carried out, can she assure the House that the Government is not contemplating the introduction into any part of the United Kingdom of either a roof tax or a local income tax?

Can she further assure the House that, as reported in the newspapers, these matters will be considered by ministers for longer than the two minutes it apparently took for roof tax to be endorsed by Labour MPs?

Mrs Thatcher: We shall certainly not introduce either a roof tax or a local income tax. It would be the worst of all worlds to have a tax on capital values augmented by a tax on income.

We are considering modifications of community charge and shall be in a position to announce those in a few weeks. They would not, of course, include the problem of structure of local authorities. That is for longer-term consideration.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, asked whether the Prime Minister agreed with Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had said two months ago that interest rates would be materially lower by the end of the year, or with Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who said that in the present dire economic circumstances, any such forecast would be foolish.

"Which is right or wrong?" Mrs Thatcher: I agree with the Chancellor (Labour cheers and laughter) and also with the Chief Secretary (renewed laughter), whose message was never accepted or acted upon by Labour. Always keep public spending under control. That is the essence of sound policy.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab): I take it from her comments to Mr Kinnock the one person not to blame for the very high interest rates and inflation rates is the very same person who has headed this wretched Administration for the past 11 years. When these policies were decided upon, was she simply absent, rather as when the papers were leaked over Westland?

Mrs Thatcher said that she was glad not to have been responsible for Labour's high inflation of 26.9 per cent.



'Paid hack' ruled out

MR DALE Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) clashed with the Speaker during defence question in the Commons when he accused the chairman of the defence select committee of being a "paid hack" of a defence contracting company.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that the phrase "paid hack" was unparliamentary and must be withdrawn.

Mr Campbell-Savours sought to refer him to the register of members' interests, but the Speaker said: "The phrase I object to is 'paid hack'."

The clash arose when Mr Campbell-Savours said that defence contractors should be advised not to "get into bed with SGL Ltd, which paid hack was the chairman of the defence select committee" (Mr Michael Mates, Hampshire East, C).

Amid loud protests from Conservative MPs and shouts of "paid hack" from the Labour benches, Mr Campbell-Savours changed the phrase to "paid servant".

Mr Alan Clark, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, to whom the original question had been directed, eventually replied: "One thing I do know is never tell anybody who to go to bed with."

Be patient, peers told on BAe sale

A REPORT by the European Commission into the sale of the Rover Group to BAe is expected shortly, Lord Trefgarne, Minister for Trade, told peers at question time in the House of Lords yesterday.

Pressed by the Opposition, he said that he would be surprised if there were not government statements to both Houses after its publication.

He denied that there had been any attempt during the sale to mislead Parliament and urged peers to wait the report before commenting.

Lord Hatch of Lusky (Lab), however, said that two things had already been established:

Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab) said that correspondence from Lord Young of Grahamton to BAe fully set out alternative means of misleading Parliament as to the true nature of the considerations involved in the purchase.

Lord Hatch said that the correspondence clearly indicated that Lord Young had offered the company alternative means of duplicity. "That correspondence is in the library, not in my mind."

Lord Williams of Elvel, an Opposition spokesman, said that the position was profoundly unsatisfactory. "He urged the Government to do all in its power to hasten publication of the report."

Lord Trefgarne replied that the Government had no power over the Commission in this case. "We shall just have to wait in patience."

Speedy reply is promised on low flying

DEFENCE

MINISTERS will respond soon to a select committee recommendation to phase out low flying by the RAF over two years. Mr Michael Neuber, Under Secretary of State for Defence, told the Commons during question time.

The subject was raised by Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP), who asked what steps were being taken to reduce the incidence of low flying military aircraft over populated areas.

Mr Neuber said that the operation of the United Kingdom military low flying system was kept under review as efforts were made to minimize the impact of low flying training on those on the ground.

That monitoring applied equally to the operation of the tactical training areas which provide essential work-up training for exercises in North America.

Mrs Ewing said that she gave a broad welcome to the report and particularly to the proposals that flying under 250 feet should be phased out over two years.

"Can he tell us when the Government will give a measured response to the recommendations of that report and ensure that MPs in all parts of the House who are interested in the subject are given a full opportunity to debate the issue?"

Mr Neuber said he welcomed the report, which would get careful consideration. The Government would present its formal response in due course and until then he could not respond to any particular recommendation in the report.

Mr Robert Maclean (Caithness and Sutherland, Lib Dem) asked that particular attention should be paid to the evidence of Mr Neuber's own officials, that it would be possible to bring down flying training from 250 feet to 100 feet within two weeks.

Mr Neuber said that very low flying from the three tactical training areas accounted for only 1 per cent of all low flying training over the United Kingdom.

It would be as well not to underestimate the need for low flying training. That training was carried out at heights and speeds much lower than necessary in conditions of war when aircraft would have to fly low and at faster speeds.

Mr William Hague (Richmond, Yorks, C) said that among the practical recommendations in the report were the need to keep better records of low flying and the publication of a telephone number which the public could use to make complaints.

Mr Quentin Davies (Stamford and Spalding, C) said that Lincolnshire had the highest concentration of RAF stations in the country and therefore probably the greatest amount of low flying. "Lincolnshire has a long tradition of great pride in the valour and skill of the RAF and is committed to maintaining tactical flying by the RAF. If these young men are prepared to risk their lives in our common defence, the least we can do is to put up with a little bit of noise. Will you, while investigating any established abuses, give short shrift to the whingers?"

Mr Neuber said that he was glad to hear that Lincolnshire was such a strong source of support for the RAF in carrying out necessary training. The committee had acknowledged that low flying needed intensive training and regular practice. That was the sole purpose of the low flying training.

Mr Winston Griffiths (Bridgend, Lab) said that some countries managed without the amount of low flying training that we had. The Government should show its good faith by acknowledging that not only should there be a reduction in low flying military aircraft, but also in training aircraft using the Vale of Glamorgan.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C) said that the Opposition, in calling for the abandonment of any stand-off capability for low flying aircraft, were expecting RAF pilots to deliver bombs without the benefit of flying below radar and that was a recipe for disaster.

Mr Allan Rogers, Opposition spokesman on defence, asked for an assurance that the Government would look urgently at the committee's recommendations relating to ultra-low flying and how it affected the three areas of the United Kingdom subject to flights under 100 feet.

Mr Neuber said that Mr Rogers was displaying the same confusion as shown by editors in the papers that morning, between the three tactical training areas where flying was down to 100 feet, and general low flying training which accounted for 95 per cent of low flying and which was spread fairly throughout the whole country.

Mr Martin O'Neill, Opposition spokesman on defence, disarmament and arms control, had asked if Mr Hamilton, the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Tony King) or the Prime Minister had been consulted or "merely informed" before the President's statement.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) said that world tension had eased and that there was new thinking among the superpowers about nuclear armaments.

Mr Hamilton said that Nato would continue to recognize the need for flexible response and accept the fact that Russia remained a military superpower with a large nuclear capability. She was likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Mr Julian Baring (Canterbury, C) said that Third World countries were getting nuclear weapons. It was inconceivable that Western Europe should shed the only nuclear defence that it had by Britain and France relinquishing that small nuclear deterrent.

Thatcher defends need to extradite

The Prime Minister was invited to congratulate the leaders of Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats in Ireland on their robust condemnation of Ireland's extradition law. However, speaking during question time in the Commons, Mrs Thatcher confined herself to saying that extradition was an important part of upholding the rule of law.

Mr Michael Mates (East Hampshire, C) asked her to convey to Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, the utter disgust of most citizens of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the fact that those wanted to answer charges continued to be set free because judges said that their offences were political.

Mrs Thatcher replied that it was important that people should be brought before the courts which could properly hear their cases and pronounce them innocent or guilty.

Scotland a nuclear dump

The Government is lining up Scotland to be Europe's main dumping ground for nuclear waste, Mr Alexander Salmon (Banff and Buchan, SNP) said in the Commons. He was unsuccessfully seeking an emergency debate on the decision to allow test boring for nuclear waste dumping at Dounreay in the North of Scotland.

He said that this disgraceful decision by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, was made even more offensive by being made outside the Commons. It went against the views of the people of Scotland as expressed in a referendum last November and it would do considerable damage to the core industries of the Highlands.

Toxic waste control Bill

A Bill to protect the environment by controlling toxic waste residues was introduced in the Commons by Mr Frank Cook (Stockton North, Lab) under the 10-minute rule. He said that the Control of Toxic Waste Residues Bill would provide a two-pronged attack on toxic wastes.

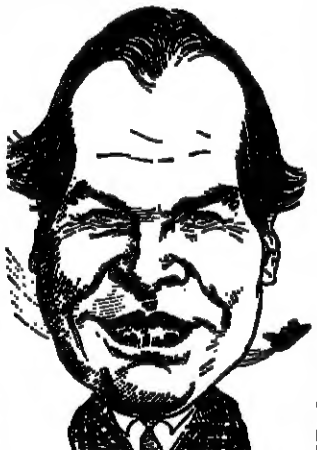
First, it would order a timetable for chemical manufacturers to design new chemical plants with toxic neutralizing units at the end of the process and, second, chemical manufacturers would be required to fit such units to existing plants where practicable.

Committee concerns

There is growing concern among the chairmen and members of Commons select committees at the number of leaks from their reports. At least one is now the subject of an investigation by the Privileges Committee. Robin Oakley, Political Editor, discusses on today's media page the inevitable tensions between parliamentarians and journalists. Page 19

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and Industry, Finance Bill, committee, second day. Lords (2.30): Debates on European co-operation and on nuclear disarmament.



Mr Davies: Lincolnshire is proud of the RAF

Labour's policy document

Kinnock prepares for election

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR leaders approved a policy document last night for the next election which emphasizes the party's determination to control inflation and public spending, its pro-European credentials and its acceptance of the role of the law in industrial relations.

An all-day meeting of Labour's home policy and international committees backed the 20,000-word campaign document drawn up by party leaders to summarize the findings of the three-year policy review. At its heart is a promise by Labour to achieve a "partnership economy."

It commits a Labour government to negotiate Britain's entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System at the earliest opportunity, tightens union laws and proposes new powers for the European Community. On defence, it promises an unspecified "peace dividend" as a result of the changes in Eastern Europe and the creation of a defence diversification agency to convert armaments manufacturing into civil industrial production.

In a clear attempt to boost Labour's economic credibility, the document emphasizes throughout that there will be no public spending surge under Labour. "The advance towards Labour's objectives was necessarily dependent on achieving sustained and balanced economic growth," it says.

"We will not spend, nor will we promise to spend more than Britain can afford. Where there is extra growth, we believe investment must have greater priority than tax cuts."

The new document, while based on *Meet the Challenge, Make the Change*, published last year after the first two phases of the policy review, contains important developments of policy, particularly on the economy. Labour leaders say it gives a much clearer idea of the priorities for an incoming Labour government and underlines the differences between Labour and the Government on key economic policies.

The key policy developments are:

private interest, a partnership between industry and government. "Private business must do what it does best; the public sector should do what it does best."

It says that Labour "welcomes and endorses the efficiencies and realism which markets can provide. The difference between ourselves and the Government... is that we recognize the limitations of the market and they do not."

The paper promises that there will be no "irresponsible dash for growth under Labour" and adds: "The stable framework which Britain will need will be more readily achieved by negotiating entry into the ERM of the European Monetary System."

"That is why a Labour government will negotiate Britain's entry at the earliest possible opportunity on the basis of prudent and reasonable conditions."

The exchange rate at which a Labour government would join "will be judged at the time on the basis not only of avoiding competitive disadvantage but also of maintaining our anti-inflation stance."

For the first time Labour is committed by the document to consider the possibility of a "politically accountable" system of European central banks, but it rejects the Delors model.

It promises a package of policies to combat inflation. "Labour will not make the mistake of trying to control inflation with only one policy." It refers to membership of the ERM as one method and checking the expansion of credit as another. But it says that as an employer a Labour government would set an example.

"We will not introduce a statutory incomes policy. But the Government has the responsibility as the public sector employer negotiating public sector pay within clearly defined public sector budget limits." The top rate of income tax will be raised to 50 per cent, and the lowest to below 10 per cent.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: Labour will restore the right to take secondary industrial action, but only for workers with a direct interest in the primary dispute. Yesterday's NEC agreed there should be a right to "picket peacefully in limited numbers, in accordance with a statutory code of practice". Secondary picketing

would be permitted "only where the second employer is directly assisting the first employer to frustrate the dispute."

Secondary action will be lawful where there is a "direct interest between the two of an occupational or professional nature."

There will be powers for partial sequestration of union funds, but "no court will be entitled to deprive the union of the power to carry on its legitimate business, such as the paying of benefits."

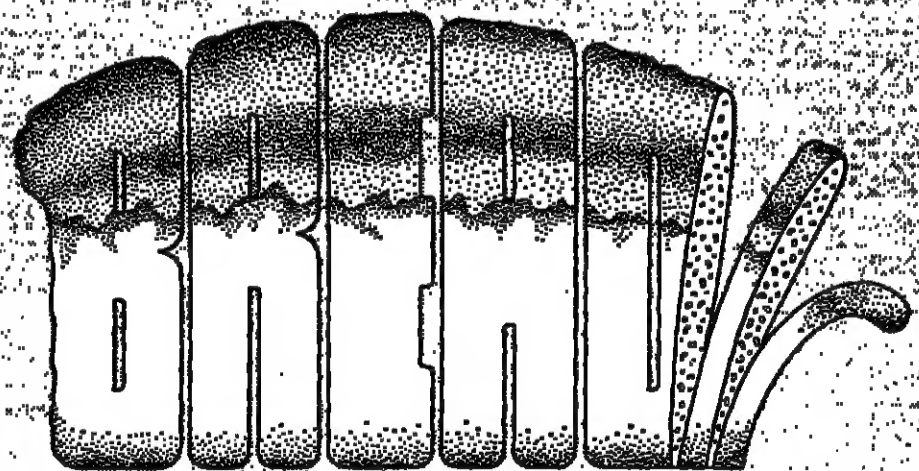
There will be a specialist labour court in which lay experts will sit alongside an experienced High Court judge. The court will have the full power of enforcement against the unions including contempt fines.

EUROPE: The document backs an extension of majority voting in the European Community's Council of Ministers and an increase in the powers of the European Parliament. Majority voting would be backed for social and environmental issues and the parliament would be allowed to initiate legislation.

CONSTITUTION: The document supports continued first-past-the-post voting for Westminster, but promises to study other systems for the European Parliament and the proposed regional assemblies. The House of Lords would be replaced by an elected second chamber.

ENVIRONMENT: Labour will set up a new "green" watchdog called the environmental protection executive with tough powers to set pollution standards and control dangerous waste. It will be independent of the Government. Labour will appoint a minister for environmental protection. A consumer protection commission covering utilities in public and private ownership is promised, with divisions covering transport, energy, water and communications.

DEFENCE: Last year's document contained the Labour's shift from nuclear unilateralism to a policy of negotiated nuclear disarmament. This year's envisaged savings resulting from the changes in the Warsaw Pact, but does not specify the areas in which cuts will be made. The savings will be used to improve public services and modernize manufacturing.



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Druze leader claims that Waite is in good health

From A Correspondent, Beirut

MR TERRY Waite, the Church of England envoy kidnapped in Beirut in 1987, is in good health, a Druze official confirmed yesterday. In the first such clarification about his health and whereabouts, Mr Akram Shuhayeb said: "He is in good health and is being kept in a hideout on the demarcation line." The line divides Beirut into Muslim and Christian sectors.

News about Mr Waite's health emerged early this week. A pro-Iranian source said yesterday that the information was apparently released to end any speculation that he might have died in captivity.

The source, who has access to news about Western hostages kidnapped in Lebanon, said on condition of anonymity: "This is an invitation to the British Government for

talks on the hostages." He suggested that Mr Waite's captors of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) may be trying to attract "bids for his release".

Another pro-Iranian source was quoted as telling an international news agency that Mr Waite was ill at one time during his confinement, but was operated on by doctors from the American University Hospital and had regained his strength.

Mr Shuhayeb said that Druze militia of his Progressive Socialist Party, which guarded Mr Waite during his visits to Beirut, "wanted to remind Hezbollah that we are still concerned about the hostage".

"We know that something was moving on the hostages," he said yesterday. "We just need a piece of the cake. We want Waite."

He confirmed that he was reassured of Mr Waite's well-being through direct contacts with Hezbollah, which is believed to be holding at least 15 Westerners, including six Americans and three Britons.

Druze sources who guarded Mr Waite during his last visit to Beirut in 1987 said that Mr Imad Mughniyeh, a Hezbollah security official, personally took him to a secret meeting to negotiate the release of American hostages. Mr Terry Anderson and Mr Thomas Sutherland, Mr Waite never returned from that meeting.

● **Keenan mission:** Mr Brian Keenan, the Irish hostage, is not expected to be released soon, Mr Antoine Macmauraidh, an Irish envoy, said in Beirut yesterday after contacts with pro-Iranian Shia leaders.

"One has to be optimistic, but I have no specific grounds for expecting an immediate release," he said. Mr Macmauraidh, Ireland's non-resident Ambassador to Lebanon, came to Beirut on Monday to seek Mr Keenan's freedom.

"There has been a change of climate," he said, referring to the release of two US hostages last month. "We are hopeful the change will lead to the release of all hostages."

Mr Keenan, aged 39, who has dual Irish and British nationality, was kidnapped in April 1986. "Mr Keenan made a choice. He applied for an Irish passport and he travelled on an Irish passport. We respect that choice and we would hope that his captives would respect it," said Mr Macmauraidh.

On Monday Mr Macmauraidh met Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, the spiritual mentor of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah — believed by the West to be holding most of the missing Westerners. Journalists and photographers were barred from the meeting.

"I had an interesting discussion with Sheikh Fadlallah. We discussed a wide range of issues... he assured me he would continue to try to create a climate conducive to the release of all hostages," Mr Macmauraidh said.

Mr Frank Reed, the American who was freed last month after more than three years in captivity, said he was held with other Western hostages, including Mr Keenan. It was the first word that the missing Irishman was alive. (Reuters)

De Klerk to pip Mandela to America

WASHINGTON — PRESIDENT de Klerk of South Africa is to visit Washington on or around June 18, White House officials said yesterday (Martin Fletcher writes) — before Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, who arrives in the US days later.

The visit and its timing have angered supporters of Mr Mandela. "No American President has ever invited a South African President presiding over an apartheid state to visit the US. Not even Ronald Reagan," Mr Randall Robinson, one of the organizers of Mr Mandela's visit, said.

Mr Mandela is to address a joint session of Congress and will attend a parade in his honour in New York.

Priest refuses military service

JOHANNESBURG — A YOUNG Anglican priest, convicted of refusing to do military service in the South African Army and facing a heavy jail sentence, walked out of court in Johannesburg yesterday and joined an anti-conscription protest march (Ray Kennedy writes).

The Rev Douglas Torr, aged 26, and other conscientious objectors marched more than a mile through the streets from the magistrates' court to a military barracks with a petition demanding the right to refuse military service.

Burmese ban on foreigners

BANGKOK — BURMA'S military government banned foreigners from the country from yesterday, diplomats said here, quoting Rangoon officials as saying the decision was taken in view of Burma's upcoming elections.

Polling is due on May 27. However, the ban appears to be indefinite, diplomats say. Only foreigners with special dispensation, such as diplomats and foreign aid workers, are exempt. (AFP)

Judges hear argument on right to burn 'Old Glory'

From Susan Elliott Washington

DEMONSTRATORS for the right to burn the US flag gathered this week outside the Supreme Court here as justices heard arguments to determine whether Americans have the constitutional right to deface their national colours.

Republicans seized on the issue after a left-wing protester burnt the flag at the 1984 Republican Party convention in Dallas, Texas. A national debate erupted when the Supreme Court ruled last year a decision by Texas to ban flag-burning. Congress later passed a law to protect the flag from desecration, saying this in no way infringed the right of free expression.

Americans are now waiting to see whether flag-burning becomes a divisive political issue this year in congressional elections or, as is more likely, becomes a damp squib.

The Administration's leading courtroom lawyer told the Supreme Court this week that Congress should have the power to protect a thing so dear to Americans as their flag. The court is expected to rule as early as next month on the law which carries a penalty of up to a year in jail or a fine of \$1,000 (£600).



A freedom-of-speech advocate demonstrating at the Supreme Court for the right to deface the US flag



Stepping on dissent: Chinese soldiers familiarizing themselves with new riot-control gear yesterday outside the Forbidden City in Peking

Cemetery attacks force France to face the past

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

M. MICHEL Rocard, the French Prime Minister, yesterday postponed today's much-vaunted round-table talks on immigration to the end of the month. The announcement came five minutes after the right-wing opposition's decision not to turn up for the meeting.

Clearly, discussing the need to further limit immigration — two days after President Mitterrand joined more than 100,000 people marching on the streets of Paris to express their disgust at racism and anti-Semitism in France — is inopportune. M. Mitterrand's unexpected decision to join the tens of thousands of people marching in protest at the desecration of tombs in the Jewish cemetery of Carpentras, last week, showed — in the words of *Liberation* newspaper yesterday — that the President understood the gravity of the situation in France today.

How, *Liberation* asked, had a President, who had always championed human rights and tolerance, come to be confronted with this distressing image of France in the foreign press as he entered his tenth year in power? It is 10 years since the last great Paris street demonstration against anti-Semitism, after the bombing of the Jewish synagogue, in the rue de Copernic, that left four people dead and 10 others injured.

Since then the National Front, which has made its anti-Jewish sentiments a cornerstone of its existence, has emerged as a fully fledged political party, and racist killings and attacks in France — often by policemen — have multiplied to become almost a part of everyday life.

Yesterday M. Lionel Jospin, the Education Minister, underlined the need, 45 years on, for the truth about the Holocaust to be taught in full in French schools and for children to be educated on the dangers of racism. Taking up the cry, *France-Soir* yesterday pointed out that only since 1988 had the extermination of Jewish people during the Second World War been explicitly part of the senior state school curriculum.

Another cause for outrage is the continued presence in French universities of professors who have written these denying the existence of Nazi gas chambers. M. Michel Noir, the Mayor of Lyons, demanded, two weeks ago, that such professors be dismissed from Lyons University.

Young French people have little idea that the Vichy authorities forcibly rounded up French Jews and deported them to Nazi concentration camps. After Monday's march, at which many French *deportees* were present, they are beginning to understand.

Three weeks ago, the magazine, *L'Express*, under the headline "The forgotten story of the forced separation by the French authorities of 3,500 French Jewish children from their mothers in 1942 and the children's deportation to Auschwitz. It was hard medicine for a nation that has never come to terms with its divisions in the Second World War. Fears that the increasing number of incidents of anti-Semitism are creating a climate similar to that of the 1930s has made it imperative that it does.

Festivities are planned next month to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of General de Gaulle — the most famous modern leader to march through the streets of Paris — and the 50th anniversary of his broadcast from London, in 1940, urging the French to resist the German occupation of their country. It is easier to remember the Resistance than the occupation, but the matter of the body in Carpentras, dug up from its grave, shows that it is necessary to detail both.

The publication last week-end of Dr Price's projection of Asian immigration levels has opened the way for exploitation of the debate by racists. Until now the highly sensitive issue of immigration has been politically taboo.

The debate has also prompted articles such as a series in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on violence in Europe, Canada and South America caused by the presence of Asians and Africans. "We have avoided most of the problems that bedevil Western Europe because few of our non-European migrants have been poor, black, unskilled, Muslim or illegal," the newspaper said.

It added: "Muslims, with their different dietary laws and different attitudes towards women, are a group Western societies are finding it most difficult to absorb." Using these examples the newspaper urged the Government to reconsider Asian immigration.

Critics of current immigration levels, including voices within the Labor Government, want substantial cuts to the annual intake of 140,000 migrants. A spokeswoman for Mr Gerry Hand, the Minister of Immigration, said yesterday that a number of submissions were being examined before this year's rate of immigration was decided. She insisted that race would not become a criterion for immigration.

Australia forecast stirs race debate

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

A FORECAST that one in four Australians will be of Asian origin within 50 years has heightened calls for a review of the country's non-discriminatory immigration policy.

Amid press reports of impending racial violence, the belief that Australia is creating one of the world's most stable multi-cultural societies has been questioned by an early architect of the policy. The demographer, Dr Charles Price, a consultant on immigration since the 1950s, says the present 6 per cent Asian proportion of migrant numbers will rise to 26 per cent by the Government's current policy. Dr Price's concern over what he describes as "rapid ethnic change" is already polarizing opinion, with angry opponents seeing him as rekindling Australia's old racist image.

It is 20 years since the "White Australia" policy was abandoned as an instrument to preserve the pre-war Anglo-Saxon culture. Opening the door to non-Europeans has since seen an influx of nationalities comparable only with the United States.

But, at a time of deepening recession, the call for a new look at immigration policy is being led by Dr John Hewson, the opposition Liberal Party leader, who questions continuing high levels of immigration on economic grounds. It is a view that has brought together some strange bedfellows, from the far left and the far right, to Green MPs opposed to any

new demand on natural resources. The publication last week-end of Dr Price's projection of Asian immigration levels has opened the way for exploitation of the debate by racists. Until now the highly sensitive issue of immigration has been politically taboo.

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Mr Mitterand's unexpected decision to join the tens of thousands of people marching in protest at the desecration of tombs in the Jewish cemetery of Carpentras, last week, showed — in the words of *Liberation* newspaper yesterday — that the President understood the gravity of the situation in France today.

Mitsotakis plans harsh measures to salvage economy

From Andrew McEwen, Athens

THIRTY state companies may be shut down, others privatized and thousands of state employees made redundant as Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, Greece's conservative Prime Minister, tackles an economy in ruins after eight years of socialism.

He said yesterday that he would start closing "ailing industries" immediately. "Maybe next week... we have no time to lose."

Part of the Greek crisis has been caused by a huge increase in the number of civil servants, many of whom Mr Mitsotakis described as "completely useless". In his first interview with a foreign journalist since his election on April 8, the Prime Minister disclosed that the Government had no idea how many civil servants it had, and was making an inventory.

"The situation is dramatic. In the public sector enterprises we have two, three or even five times as many personnel as are needed."

Mr Mitsotakis also quashed speculation that charges against Mr Andreas Papandreu, the former Prime Minister, arising from the Bank of Crete scandal, might be dropped.

He said there had been no secret deal. "Nobody can order justice around, and nobody would wish to." Asked if it would be too strong to say the economy was in ruins, he replied that that was "exactly the reality".

Mr Mitsotakis arrives in London this morning for a meeting with Mrs Thatcher. He will request, and undoubtedly receive, her understanding for the turmoil which lies ahead as he applies tough corrective policies. He will also seek greater British investment and try to persuade her to be more active in resolving the Cyprus dispute.

Yesterday, workers in industries likely to be selected for closure staged a four-hour stoppage and a protest march to the Ministry of the National Economy. Mr Mitsotakis said there was no alternative to sharp deflation. The most startling measure of Greece's debts is that they exceed annual GDP (£32.12 billion against £31.53 billion).

"The total public debt at the end of the year will be 15 trillion drachmas (£55 billion). That is 1.5 million drachmas per capita," Mr Mitsotakis said.

He plans to introduce a tough budget before the end of May to cut the government deficit.

Mr Mitsotakis, a man of charm and quiet courtesy but no match for the fiery charisma of his socialist predecessor, Mr Papandreu, waited five years as leader of

the New Democracy opposition for his chance to tackle Greece's economic difficulties.

Mr Papandreu, the Prime Minister from 1981 to 1989, achieved popularity with Greece's poor underclass through high spending programmes and low prices. His appeal survived scandals over massive fraud at the Bank of Crete, his extramarital affair with a former air hostess, leading to his divorce and remarriage, and serious ill-health. Mr Mitsotakis made surprisingly little progress in elections last June and November, and now has only a slender majority of 153 in the 300-seat Parliament to carry through his reforms.

Pantanal has, however, been

Peking arrests 'spies' from Taiwan

From Catherine Sampson Peking

CHINA said yesterday it had arrested seven "spies" from Taiwan for trying to stir up dissent. The announcement came as tension over the Goddess of Democracy radio ship was reaching a peak with the vessel preparing to leave Taiwan and sail into international waters to start broadcasting its pro-democracy message into China.

A number of Taiwan "spy rings" had attempted "to instigate new turmoil on the mainland", China's official news agency, Xinhua, reported, quoting the Ministry of State Security. Five of the "spies" were arrested in the southern province of Guangxi. China said two had joined the Kuomintang military spy network last year. Their orders, Xinhua said, were to make contact with and encourage underground dissident organizations.

The other two "spies" were arrested in the northern city of Tianjin, and the western province of Yunnan, where they were trying to recruit "secret agents", according to Xinhua. One was under cover as a businessman, "trying to recruit spies in factories and enterprises".

This is the first spate of arrests of Taiwanese "spies" since February, and may be timed as a warning to coincide with the radio ship's presence in Taiwan, where it is taking on supplies and broadcasting equipment. Taiwan has made clear its nervousness about the project, and says it will refuse permission for the boat to return to Taiwan for supplies if it goes ahead with the broadcasts.

China has expressed outrage at the project, and has not ruled out the use of force to halt it. The Goddess of Democracy is named after the statue that students erected last year in Tiananmen Square as China's statue of liberty. The boat aims to leave Taiwan tomorrow and to begin its broadcasts in the next few days, during the run-up to the June 4 anniversary of the massacre.

Taiwan says it will defend the ship only while it is in Taiwanese waters. However, analysts say China will not attack the vessel while the US is debating whether to renew its Most Favoured Nation trading status.

● **Peak plea:** Three Tibetan mountain climbers who made it to the summit of Everest last week as part of a joint Chinese-Soviet-American expedition got their priorities absolutely right, the *Peking Daily* reported yesterday. On reaching the summit, they called their leaders at base camp on walkie-talkies to make an official request that they be allowed to become Communist Party members.

FBI boycott inquiry shames New York

From James Bone, New York

THE FBI, long accustomed to civil rights investigations in the Deep South, has begun an inquiry into the black boycott of two Korean-owned grocery shops in Brooklyn.

The entry of the Federal Bureau of Investigation into the case comes as an acute embarrassment to New York, whose own police have failed to enforce a court order that pickets be kept at least 50 yards from the shops.

The FBI was called in by the Federal Attorney's office in Brooklyn. Federal civil rights law applies when any two or more people conspire to deprive someone of a federally protected right. Violations are punishable with terms of imprisonment of up to 10 years.

The boycott began four months ago when blacks from the surrounding neighbourhood accused the Korean staff of the Red Apple grocery shop in Flatbush of roughing up a black woman they suspected

of shoplifting. Police say the woman's face was scratched, but her lawyer contends she suffered serious internal injuries, now walks with a cane and has had to abandon her job as a day-care worker. One rumour even has her in a coma.

The shop's Korean owner has been charged with third-degree assault, but will tell a Brooklyn court later this month that he was at the barber's when the skirmish took place. Protesters have targeted both the grocery shop and another Korean-owned shop across the street, where two Red Apple workers took refuge.

The atmosphere has worsened dramatically in recent days. At the weekend, just blocks from the grocery shops, a gang of blacks beat up three Vietnamese, shouting anti-Korean slurs.

A man aged 18 and a girl aged 13 have been charged in connection with the attack.

Brazil's beauty and beasts a wild success

From Louise Byrne Rio de Janeiro

JUMA, the star of Brazil's latest hit soap opera, walks the flatlands of Pantanal with a rifle in her hand and a fierce feline look in her eyes. She bathes in rivers inhabited by alligators and is a mystery to most men. Beautiful Juma, otherwise model Cristiana Oliveira, is acting in only her second television drama but has found herself at the centre of Brazil's first ecological soap opera and the biggest success in many years.

Few might have expected an ecological soap opera in Brazil, a country known more for cutting down trees than for saving them. However, not only is *Pantanal* bringing wildlife and panoramic beauty into the homes of Brazilians six nights a week, but it has got Brazil's main television network, TV Globo, extremely wor-

ried. Produced by the rival station, TV Manchete, *Pantanal* has proved so successful it has threatened the "soap supremacy" of Globo.

Written by Benedito Ruy Barbosa, the soap opera takes place in the Pantanal, a vast region the size of Switzerland, Belgium and Holland put together, on the Brazilian border with Paraguay and Bolivia. Largely owned by ranchers, whose cattle roam up to 100,000 hectares, the Pantanal is described by wildlife experts as a natural paradise, with flocks of large blue macaws, jaguars and alligators.

The author of nearly 20 soap operas, Senhor Barbosa conceived the idea for the drama eight years ago, when he visited a ranch hotel in the Pantanal. After being rejected by TV Globo, he spent six years offering the series to various channels, before Manchete decided to risk the rel-

atively high production costs. Tourism to the region has doubled since the series started two months ago, and women are having their hair cut in the "wild Pantanal" style.

At first criticized for being too slow, viewers now find the series relaxing, like a few hours in the country. According to Senhor Barbosa, a scene which would last one minute in most soaps, lasts three in *Pantanal*.

Like all Brazilian soaps, it offers a menu of twists, love, revenge and betrayal. According to the author, environmental issues are introduced subtly rather than plucked constantly. "There are plenty of natural references to the wildlife of the region, and controversial issues, like the illegal hunting of alligators, are aired normally as they are by the people of the Pantanal," Senhor Barbosa says.

Pantanal has, however, been

criticized for what some see as excessive eroticism and nudity for a peak-time soap. Several of the cast spend a considerable amount of time nude. Senhor Barbosa says that unlike most Brazilian soaps, which all have nudity and almost-comic sex scenes, the nudity in *Pantanal* is in good taste. "It is also a natural part of life in the region to bathe nude in the rivers," he says.

Whether this is true could be in dispute after an incident involving Senhorita Oliveira. In the middle of recording a steamy river dip, an alligator came close to ending her successful acting career. Senhor Jaime Monjardin, the director, now personally tests the water before forcing his cast to risk piranhas and alligators for the sake of their art.

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Yeltsin plays the Russian card in first stage of bid for power

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

MR BORIS Yeltsin today embarks on what he believes will be an uphill struggle to become President of the Russian Federation — a post from which he could subsequently challenge President Gorbachov for the leadership of the Soviet Union.

Mr Yeltsin, who commands widespread — and increasingly vocal — public support in some of Russia's largest cities, will be the willing star at the congress of the Russian Federation parliament when it meets for the first time today. He can count on being mobbed by supporters and journalists alike, when he makes his first appearance in the lobbies of the grand Kremlin Palace.

The congress is the preliminary stage in the establishment of the Russian Federation's new two-chamber parliament, or Supreme Soviet. A total of 1,068 deputies will be taking part, elected in the republic-wide elections held in

March. Just over a third competed as adherents of the "bloc for democratic Russia" umbrella group of reformist organizations, and Mr Yeltsin believes that he can count on their support in his bid for the presidency. He regards another 30 per cent as die-hard opponents and the other 40 per cent of deputies as possibly persuadable.

The competition for the presidency, and the selection of deputies who will become members of the permanently sitting Supreme Soviet will be the main work of the congress. It will also set an outline agenda for the Supreme Soviet, and probably amend the federation's Constitution to increase the republic's sovereignty in relation to the federal government.

Two candidates besides Mr Yeltsin are expected to be nominated for the presidency — Mr Aleksandr Vlasov, the grey and charming Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, and probably Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime

Minister. According to Mr Yeltsin, speaking to a public meeting of his Moscow supporters, Mr Gorbachov has urged all Communist Party deputies to vote for Mr Vlasov.

How much power the new President wields will depend on two things: the character of the individual, and whether the congress makes changes to the federation Constitution to give the President republic-wide powers similar to those held by Mr Gorbachov since the establishment of the executive presidency.

Mr Yeltsin is the only candidate who would, by character alone, transform the office. If the Constitution is not changed, however, his position would be merely chairman of the presidium of the federation's Supreme Soviet — little more than speaker of the republic's parliament. If the Constitution is changed, however, he would have far wider powers, including the right to initiate legislation and appoint his own

cabinet, as President Gorbachov has done.

In the view of Yeltsin supporters, the worst that could happen is that the congress would both change the Constitution and elect Mr Vlasov — giving a man regarded as a Gorbachov puppet extensive powers to do President Gorbachov's bidding. A middle course would be for the office to remain powerless, in which case either Mr Vlasov or Mr Yeltsin could be elected.

Assuming he cannot win, or if Mr Gorbachov uses every possible tactical manoeuvre to prevent him from winning, Mr Yeltsin's favoured course is to leave the Constitution as it is, and have the chairman of the presidium elected for a one-year term, while amendments are adopted to provide for republic-wide direct elections for the presidency in a year's time.

He appears to believe that he would be able to use the year to build more solid support in rural as well as urban areas —

from which he could campaign to become the first directly elected leader of a Soviet republic. In national politics, this would give him an impressive advantage over President Gorbachov, whose five-year mandate was won after hard bargaining with the All-Union Congress of People's Deputies.

The question of greater sovereignty for the federation in relations with the central Soviet Government, as with the post of President, can mean as much or as little as the new parliament wants it to mean. More autonomy for individual republics is a policy President Gorbachov has advocated consistently, and changes in the all-union Constitution are in train to loosen the central ties on all republics.

The Russian Federation, however, has always been different because Moscow is the seat of government and because Russians are the dominant ethnic group in the Soviet Union. Traditional Communist "internationalists", like Mr

Yegor Ligachov, would object to too much autonomy for the federation, on the grounds that it might accelerate its disintegration. Others, however, including Mr Yeltsin, believe that Russia should be a republic like any other, with the same rights to self-government and financial autonomy as are planned for the other republics.

This view finds favour with extreme Russian nationalists, but it also has much wider appeal. Many Russians feel that they pay too much into the central treasury to subsidize other republics, whether ungrateful separatists like the Baltic states, or the too-rapidly multiplying populations of Soviet Central Asia. They also resent the Russian casualties incurred during what they see as peace-keeping operations between non-Russian nationalities, as in the Caucasus.

Mr Yeltsin's positive advocacy of the Russian cause might just give him enough votes to make the election of the federation President a real contest.

Gorbachov fights to rekindle his waning popularity

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

WITH two weeks to go before the Washington summit and another four to the opening of the Communist Party Congress, President Gorbachov is engaged in some hectic image-building, mostly, it seems, for the benefit of his increasingly jaded domestic constituency.

The extent of his unpopularity, even within the Communist Party, became clear yesterday when it was disclosed that he had won only 60 per cent of the vote to become a delegate to the party congress, even though he was standing in a hand-picked party constituency against an unknown opponent.

Since last Thursday, Mr Gorbachov has delivered two important speeches, one to a Moscow party voters' meeting, the other to university and college rectors. He has met three senior foreign visitors: the new Mongolian leader, President Mubarak of Egypt (who is making the first visit by an Egyptian leader for 18 years), and the Papal Nuncio. He is now preparing for a probable meeting with a fourth visitor, Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, who arrived in Moscow for a four-day visit last night to discuss final preparations for the summit. Yesterday *Pravda* even published, on its front page, a posed photo-

graph of Mr Gorbachov between the Mongolian President and party leader in the best Brezhnevian style.

Each of the foreign visits has its own important purpose, of course, aside from demonstrating the Soviet leader's continued supremacy in foreign policy. The Papal Nuncio delivered a letter from the Pope, in reply to a letter sent earlier. The subject is not known but could relate to Lithuania (a predominantly Roman Catholic republic for which the Pope asked for prayers in his Easter message) or to the projected papal visit to the Soviet Union.

With both Mongolia and Egypt it is possible to detect concern in Moscow lest either tip the traditional balance of their foreign policy too far in the direction of China. Soviet relations with both countries are dogged with economic and political problems which tend to be hidden behind diplomatic decorum.

The two causes of tension with Mongolia, aside from the China factor, are the country's extreme economic dependence on the Soviet Union and its huge rouble debt — which exceeds nine billion roubles — on which Mongolia recently said it would default. The official account of President Ochirbat's meeting with

President Gorbachov suggests that Moscow may have been accused, by the Mongolian side, of exploiting Mongolia's dependence to pay low prices for its raw materials. The two countries are now to move towards trade at world market prices in hard currency, the report said.

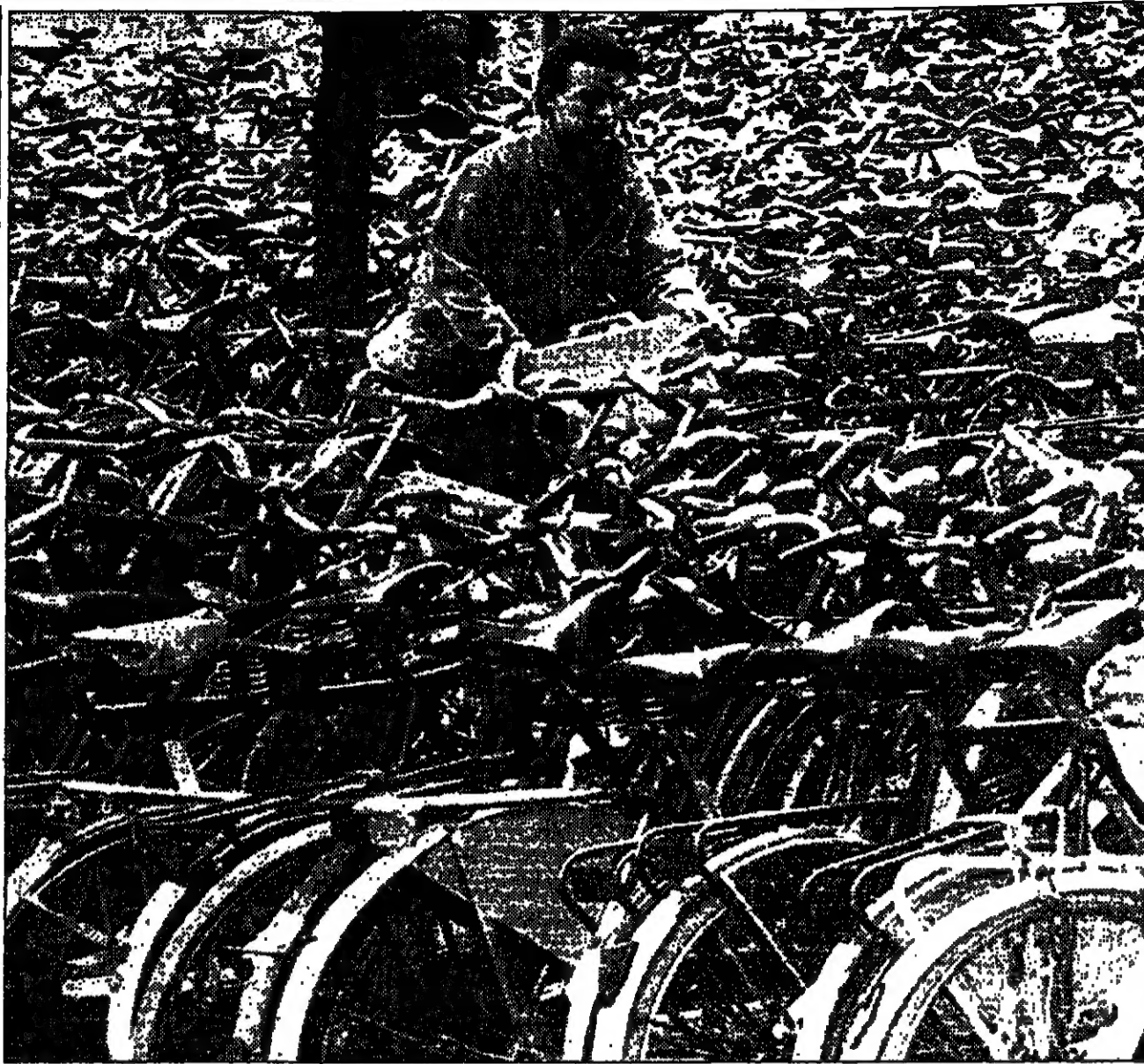
Tension with Egypt is partly a legacy of the abrupt break with Moscow when, in 1972, President Sadat expelled Soviet military advisers from Egypt, and Egypt's participation in the Camp David agreement with Israel. A more immediate cause is general Arab unhappiness over the large increase in the number of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

President Gorbachov's speech to university rectors contained several pleas for the abandonment of egalitarian ideas and the introduction of higher rewards for merit. "Otherwise they will leave, and they are already doing so," he said in his first public reference to the possibility that many Soviet specialists might choose to work abroad now that travel is easier. He has also started to take a more conciliatory attitude to the reformist movement within the Communist Party, the Democratic Platform group, which supports greater inner-party democracy and argues that it should become a parliamentary party.

In his speech to his Moscow party constituency on Friday, Mr Gorbachov said there was much that could be adopted from the Democratic Platform's programme, although he rejected the idea that the Communist Party should lose its "avant-garde" character.

His words contrasted with the party Central Committee's open letter criticizing the Democratic Platform and accusing some of its most prominent members of trying to split the party — a letter which Mr Gorbachov authorized.

The letter prompted the resignation from the party of a number of Democratic Platform leaders and sympathizers — who are setting up a separate Russian Democratic Party — and resulted in the expulsion of others. Despite splitting the Democratic Platform in this way, however, Mr Gorbachov still clearly considers the group a threat, and the 36 per cent of the vote won by his opponent — a Democratic Platform supporter — in his party constituency, shows its continuing popularity.



A Dutch student searching for an empty space in a sea of bicycles outside Amsterdam's Free University. In this flat, car-clogged city, bicycles are cleaner, cheaper and faster. Parking may still be a problem, though.

Violent election campaign marks Romania as maverick of East

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

WHEN campaigning ends officially at midnight tomorrow, voters will have two clear days before casting their ballots in an election which has contributed as much as the bloody December revolution to single out Romania as the maverick of Eastern Europe.

Among the foreign analysts flooding into Bucharest's overcrowded hotels, the most puzzled have been those fresh from studying other recent polls in the former Communist Bloc.

A Scandinavian student preparing a thesis comparing the Romanian election with that in Czechoslovakia, admitted he could not find a single point of similarity. To make matters worse, he was badly beaten up by supporters of the ruling National Salvation Front when he unwisely attempted to photograph an example of the intimidation and thuggery that has become so widespread.

Apart from the reluctance to accept any rapid change in the status quo, expressed by many voters panicked by visions of a new capitalist "boss class", no one here speaks of a sense of shame about the past in the way that President Havel of Czechoslovakia has described with such eloquence.

Romania has a tradition of intolerance, brutality and deep-rooted corruption that preceded the 24-year dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu. It also has no tradition of liberal democracy. Nor was there any organized elite outside the Communist Party waiting to assume power at the fall of Ceausescu.

As well as many cruder

epithets, the Front's propagandists have been able, with some truth, to label the right-wing opposition as largely made up of "fossils".

The Front's two main opponents, the National Peasant Party and the National Liberal Party, have also suffered because their presidential hopefuls spent many years in exile during the Ceausescu era and have thus been lampooned as "carpet-baggers".

This has applied particularly to Mr Ion Ratiu, the elegant, bow-tied Peasant Party candidate, who has been using his large personal fortune to finance a campaign. "He thinks money is everything," complained Miss Ilona Hrestic, a young Front supporter in Moldavia. "He cannot come back like that and buy us."

Many Romanians have switched their adulation to Mr Ion Iliescu, the former high-ranking Communist who is the Front's presidential candidate. Their ignorance of opposition alternatives has been reinforced by the Front's control of the media.

Television, the focal point of the revolution, has been shamelessly biased towards the Front, a tactic also employed by the official Romenews agency. All attempts by Mr Ratiu to start a rival television or radio station have been stone-walled and *Romania Libera*, the main independent daily, frequently finds that copies fail to reach the news-stands.

Defence shown towards the Front by many voters, notably workers who are estimated to make up some 70 per

cent of the electorate, has made some psephologists unwilling to predict the result of Sunday's vote solely on the outcome of opinion polls. These have been amateurish and have all given the Front a substantial lead, although that has been falling slightly in recent days.

Doubts about the Front's ability to overcome its close links with Moscow and the old Communist regime point to the way the pollsters were wrong-footed by the outcome of recent polls in East Germany and Nicaragua.

Miss Anna Husarica, a Polish journalist from *Gazeta Wyborcza*, said: "I was in Managua for the voting and, because the Sandinistas had the biggest rallies, everybody assumed they would win. The same possibility for an upset could exist here."

Against this has to be set the comparative size of the Front and opposition rallies in

Romania, notably in the rural areas, where ignorance about democracy is greatest and opposition fears about harassment highest. There are even politicians certain that many voters will not believe their ballot will be secret.

"How could this be manipulated as the journalists have claimed?" asked Mr Iliescu as a chanting crowd of 30,000 in the oil city of Ploiesti gave him a hero's welcome. Speaking to his supporters, it was a hard question to answer as most appeared genuine in their conviction that the ever-smiling interim President was the man who had rescued them from Ceausescu.

The opposition has been unable to pull anything like the Front's crowds; intimidation has been a factor, but there has also been a lack of enthusiasm reinforced by their poor organization.

The latest poll, published yesterday by *Romania Libera*, gave Mr Iliescu 53 per cent of the votes; Mr Radu Campeanu, leader of the Liberal Party, 23.6 per cent; and Mr Ratiu 11.1 per cent. In the race for the upper and lower houses of parliament, the Front was named by 39.6 per cent, 24.5 per cent plumped for the Liberals and only 8.3 per cent for the Peasant Party. More than 12 per cent of voters were undecided.

Excluding any last-minute upsets, that is likely to ensure the Front its victory, but not by the landslide margins predicted at the outset of a campaign in which the opposition has only managed in the closing stages to start getting its message across.



Mr Ion Iliescu: A hero's welcome from crowd

Doubts linger over Securitate successor

From Christopher Walker
Bucharest

IT WAS not a scene James Bond would relish. The idea was to make the dirty work of espionage as mundane as an episode of *Neighbours*. Yesterday, for the edification of the world's press and the reassurance of Romanian voters, Mr Virgil Magureanu, a former philosophy professor and now chief of the euphemistically named Romanian Information Service, was presented at a news conference.

Mr Magureanu, aged 50, who looks like everybody's favourite uncle, heads the replacement of Romania's hated Securitate secret police. His soothing words, about how the Information Service has no powers of arrest and would pursue no one on account of their political beliefs, were translated by a sweet-voiced woman,

and on hand was the new service's official spokesman, a bearded former film critic who appeared willing to give out his name and ex-directory telephone number to any foreign agent who asked.

Professor Magureanu, reduced from academic to researcher because of his opposition to the late Nicolae Ceausescu, gave no coherent explanation as to why he should have been chosen. But the Romanian next to me whispered: "It is probably because he does not look very sinister."

With searing candour, the professor pointed out how very difficult it was to find skilled secret service agents in post-revolutionary Romania who were not compromised by their connection with the Securitate. For this reason, the Information Service had launched a novel recruiting drive in the local press. It had also let

foreign diplomats know that any training by such established services as MI6, the CIA or the KGB would be welcome.

The professor spent more time explaining what the new intelligence service would not be doing than saying what it would. In Bucharest, the subject is sensitive; very few people believe that the Securitate died with Ceausescu. The new service's main role will be to counter terrorism and protect state secrets. Its agents will also continue hunting for the millions the Ceausescus siphoned away in bank accounts.

Professor Magureanu, a hard character to weave into any cloak-and-dagger novel, was unable to give a convincing answer to those who wanted to know what had happened to the 50,000 former Securitate agents and their 700,000 informers. He also

failed to satisfy those worried about what use a future government would make of the huge bank of Securitate files still in existence.

As a public relations exercise, the conference was less than a perfect success, in spite of the strong performance of its main character. The main reason was that Mr Ion Pacepa, the former chief of the Securitate who defected in 1978, said only last month that he had made contact with many former colleagues. "All my friends are there still doing business as usual," he claimed.

● **Rome** — The Vatican and Romania have restored diplomatic relations, broken by Bucharest in 1950; the Vatican announced yesterday. Romania is the fourth Warsaw Pact country to restore ties with the Vatican after Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. (Reuter)

PLO warns of war over Jewish exodus

From Penny Gibbins, Tunis

THE Palestine Liberation Organization announced yesterday that Soviet and East European Jewish immigration to Israel has destroyed future attempts at a peace settlement. It added that, "war is all that is left".

The warning came from Mr Faruk Qaddumi, the head of the PLO's political department in Tunis. He said in a BBC radio interview: "This immigration is aimed at transferring all the Jews to install them in the rest of Gaza and the West Bank. This is intended to bring about the failure of all future attempts at peace."

"It presents the world with a fait accompli of all Palestine being populated by Jews. This in turn means that there can be no way of resolving the Palestinian problem and will

lead to a new war between Israel and its Arab neighbours. That war will not be to Israel's advantage."

The PLO has been increasingly anxious about the large number of Jewish immigrants being settled in the occupied territory. On Monday there were fresh reports that immigrants had arrived in the Golan Heights. The Israeli Government has also announced its intention to build 70,000 new tenements this year to house the newcomers.

Mr Qaddumi said the peace process has failed completely because of Israel's refusal to negotiate, its expansionist aims, and because of American encouragement of the Jewish immigration.

The immigration issue will be discussed at an Arab summit on May 28 in Baghdad.



President Mubarak of Egypt, laying a wreath at the Lenin Mausoleum in Moscow, during a visit designed to ease long-standing tension between the two countries

Soviet leader may call on Reagan

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

PRESIDENT Gorbachov intends to travel across the US after this month's superpower summit and may visit former President Reagan in California, White House officials said yesterday.

Plans have not yet been finalized, but the officials said the Soviet leader, in what would be his first big tour of the US outside Washington, was likely to go first to Minneapolis, where he would give a speech and view industrial and agricultural enterprises. He would then fly on to

California where he has a long-standing invitation to visit Mr Reagan. A visit to San Francisco and a speech at Stanford University are also possible.

Mr Gorbachov's wish to venture beyond the East coast, communicated by a Soviet advance team which was in Washington last week to prepare for the summit, took the Administration by surprise.

When the dates of the May 30-June 3 summit were announced last month, US-Soviet relations were under

strain because of Lithuania. Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the Soviet spokesman, stressed that it would be a businesslike affair with no time for what he termed "sightseeing".

It is now expected that the summit will be confined to Washington, with possibly one day in Camp David.

● **OTTAWA** — Mr Gorbachov will visit Ottawa on May 29 and May 30 for talks with Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, before flying to Washington, it was announced yesterday.

Bonn approval for a unity treaty

From Ian Murray
Bonn

THE draft treaty, which will enable rich West Germany to take over the management of poor East Germany from July 2, was endorsed yesterday by the Bonn Government as the first and most important concrete step towards elections for a united country to be held around the turn of the year.

Economic, currency and social union will effectively end East Germany's existence as a separate state in day-to-day matters.

The treaty on economic union goes some way to meet Soviet fears over the consequences of reunification. It affirms that the united country will respect all existing trade contracts, including those with the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries.

Already accepted in outline by the East German Government, the treaty will require quick legislation in the Volkskammer to change or cancel the whole spectrum of laws which created the communist state after the Second World War.

This will enable the Bundesbank to introduce the Deutschmark as the common currency and to run a social market economy there.

Herr Theo Waigel, the West German Finance Minister, travels to East Berlin tomorrow to see Herr Walter Romberg, his opposite number, to work out final details. Both Governments are due to approve the 115-page document on Friday and it should be passed by both parliaments on June 23.

Having surrendered its economy to the Bundesbank, the East German Government will then set to work to organize the final merger between the two countries.

Proposals are included in the draft treaty to protect low-paid workers and pensioners from suffering too much from the consequences of inflation, once subsidies are removed from basic commodities and rents.

The plans involve bonuses worth around £10 a month for workers earning less than about £200 a month and a guarantee to pensioners that they will receive the same number of Deutschmarks as they would have received Ostmarks.

Unemployment benefits will also be paid with the help of a start-up contribution from Bonn, although the East German Government has to start levying contributions now to save for future needs.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, made clear here today, it was "highly desirable" that all the external military aspects were agreed in parallel.

After a lunchtime meeting with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German opposite number, he said that it would be dangerous if these aspects were separated from the internal questions, as had been suggested by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Murder prompts for Man investigation

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Murder trial prompts call for Mandela investigation

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

A MURDER trial has heard testimony by three young black men that they were punched and whipped by Mrs Winnie Mandela at her home in Soweto after her bodyguards had abducted them.

Three days after the alleged assault, during which Mrs Mandela is said to have told them they were "not fit to be alive", a youth detained with them was taken from the house by one of her associates. His partly decomposed body was later discovered a few miles away with three stab wounds in the neck.

Police forensic experts have testified that human blood was found on the seats of a minibus belonging to Mrs Mandela, on a whip taken from her house, and on the walls, floor and ceiling of two outside rooms.

Mrs Mandela is not in the dock, however. Nor has she been called to give evidence. She is touring African states with her husband, Mr Nelson Mandela, the Deputy President of the ANC.

Mr Jerry Richardson, aged

41, the former coach of a football team called Mandela United, which served as Mrs Mandela's bodyguard, faces charges of murder, attempted murder, kidnapping and assault.

Mr Richardson denies the charges, and has consistently asserted that Mrs Mandela was not at home at the time of the alleged offences. In an interview last year, Mrs Mandela also denied that she, or any members of her team, had been responsible for the youth's death. "I feel a total betrayal by everyone involved in this sordid affair," she said.

Her protestations of innocence were largely ignored by the black community, which ostracized her in February last year, after expressing outrage at a "reign of terror" waged by her marauding associates. A statement by the United Democratic Front, a coalition of anti-apartheid organizations, explicitly accused her of complicity in the abduction and assault of the murdered youth, 14-year-old "Stompie" Moeketsi Seipei.

Mrs Mandela has been rehabilitated with the release of her husband. In view of the allegations against her, however, there is concern that the decision not to involve her in judicial proceedings, so far, may have political motives.

Mr Brian Curran, the director of an association of human rights lawyers, said: "Obviously the Government, for reasons best known to them, have decided to play down her involvement at this stage. Our view is that these allegations should be properly investigated."

Mr J. A. Swanepoel, the Deputy Attorney General of the Witwatersrand, said she had not been indicted — so far — because of lack of evidence. "After this trial is over, we will look into the evidence and consider whether we should prosecute Mrs Mandela."

He rejected suggestions of political considerations, saying that the trial opened in the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg on the same day the Government began peace talks with the ANC in Cape Town. "That in itself, I suppose, created embarrassment for Mr Mandela. If there had been any political motivation, obviously we would have postponed the case. I think before you reach any final conclusion, wait until the trial is over and then we will decide whether Mrs Mandela is to be prosecuted."

Meanwhile, Mr Richardson has displayed remarkable equanimity in the dark wood-paneled courtroom as a succession of witnesses have described how he abducted them from a church mission on December 29, 1988, and assaulted them in Mrs Mandela's presence.

The youths said they were accused by Mr Richardson and others of sexual misconduct with the Rev Paul Verryn, a white Methodist minister, who provided shelter for homeless boys. "Stompie" Moeketsi, a well-known young activist in the anti-apartheid movement, was also accused by Mrs Mandela's entourage of being a police informer.

(A community meeting in Soweto later exonerated Mr Verryn after hearing evidence from two of the youths, and police have said during the trial they had no record of the boy being an informer).

Notice is given on US bases

Manila

THE Philippines Government yesterday gave notice to the United States that it will terminate the 1947 agreement covering American military bases in the country from September 1991 (Vyvyan Tenorio writes).

The formal note was served by Mr Raul Manglapus, the Foreign Secretary, on the second day of exploratory talks in Manila with US officials led by Mr Richard Armitage on the future of the bases. Although analysts say this is merely a negotiating tactic by the Philippines side, it was applauded by legislators and nationalist groups.

Tibet cabinet

Dharamsala, India — The Tibetan parliament-in-exile has for the first time started electing a new cabinet as part of the Dalai Lama's plans to democratize the movement seeking to end Chinese rule over Tibet. (AFP)

Actor immunity

New York — A judge granted immunity to George Hamilton to compel the actor, who has been named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the case, to testify at the Marcos fraud trial. (AP)

Tree penalties

Jakarta — The Indonesian Department of Forestry warned that illegal tree cutting could bring penalties of up to 10 years in prison. (AP)

Barry denial

Washington — Mr Marion Barry, Mayor of Washington, has denied six new drug charges, and faces a total of 14 charges. (AP)

Rebel talks

Lisbon — A representative of the rebel Mozambique National Resistance met a Mozambique Government official for the first time the civil war began in 1977. (AP)

Octogenarian battle for Dominican rule

From Alan Tomlinson, Miami

TWO octogenarians who have dominated the political life of the Dominican Republic for half a century face each other at the polls today, to decide which will lead the country in the twilight of his years.

President Balaguer, aged 83, a mild-mannered Latin-American *caudillo* with a passion for history, sonnets and vast public works, seeks an extraordinary sixth term in office despite his almost total blindness.

But the opinion polls favour an astonishing comeback by Señor Juan Bosch, aged 80, a left-winger who, in line with new times, has abandoned the Marxism that led the army to topple him after six months in power in 1963.

Though his memory sometimes fails him with embarrassing lapses, the reformed Señor Bosch's belated espousal of capitalism appears to have won over many fearful Dominicans.

During his last four years in office, President Balaguer claims to have stimulated 3.8 per cent growth and created hundreds of thousands of jobs,

by embarking on an endless series of public building projects including roads, office blocks, schools, hospitals, a race track and a gigantic lighthouse overlooking the capital that in 1992 will commemorate the quincentennial of Columbus's discovery of the Americas.

But his opponents complain that by printing the money to pay for these schemes he has heaped runaway inflation on top of the already heavy burdens of the one-third unemployed. And basic necessities such as electricity and water appear to have been overlooked.

Señor Bosch promises to alleviate the pain by rejuvenating the neglected agricultural heart of the economy.



Blast-off: A Vietnamese leaves Hong Kong for home yesterday under the voluntary repatriation scheme with the ultimate in Western decadence, a "ghetto blaster"

Yugoslavia 'on brink of civil war'

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

THE new head of Yugoslavia's collective presidency said yesterday that the defeat of the Communists and the victory of the opposition in Slovenia and Croatia had brought the country to the brink of civil war and possible breakup.

Dr Borisav Jovic, a Serb and hardline Communist who now heads the eight-man state presidency, which rotates annually, told Parliament that, under the guise of democratic changes, forces set on destroying socialism, even at the price of breaking up Yugoslavia, were at work.

"This we shall firmly oppose," he said. However, he pledged himself to support the efforts of Yugoslav republics seeking to secede, including the endorsement of legal provisions that would permit a measure of self-determination for the constituent republics. These would include peaceful secession from the federal state so as to avoid the fate of "those countries that were forced to settle this problem on the streets."

However, Dr Stipe Suvar, the Vice-President, who represents Croatia, said Dr Jovic was speaking in his own name and that the rest of the presidency did not necessarily agree with this point of view.

The system of rotating heads of state was devised in Tito's lifetime to guarantee

each of the constituent republics and two autonomous regions equal say.

Centre-right parties have won the first free elections in Yugoslavia in 50 years in both Slovenia and Croatia to the consternation of hardline Communists in Serbia, who still advocate the party's monopoly on power.

The old communist system not only lingers on in Serbia, but seems to be gaining strength as Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the hard-line Communist leader, rides high on a tide of Serbian nationalism, pressing for constitutional changes in Yugoslavia that would reinforce central authority and keep the Communist Party firmly in control.

Slovenia and Croatia have already announced that they will go ahead and draft their own national constitution and have, moreover, warned that Yugoslavia's future can be safeguarded only as a confederation. Dr Jovic, in his inaugural speech, rejected a confederal system, however, saying it would lead to chaos and threaten the very existence of the Yugoslav state.

● ZAGREB: The Yugoslav republic of Croatia said yesterday it would suspend all police who overreacted during a soccer riot involving Croats and Serbs in which about 140 people were hurt. (Reuters)

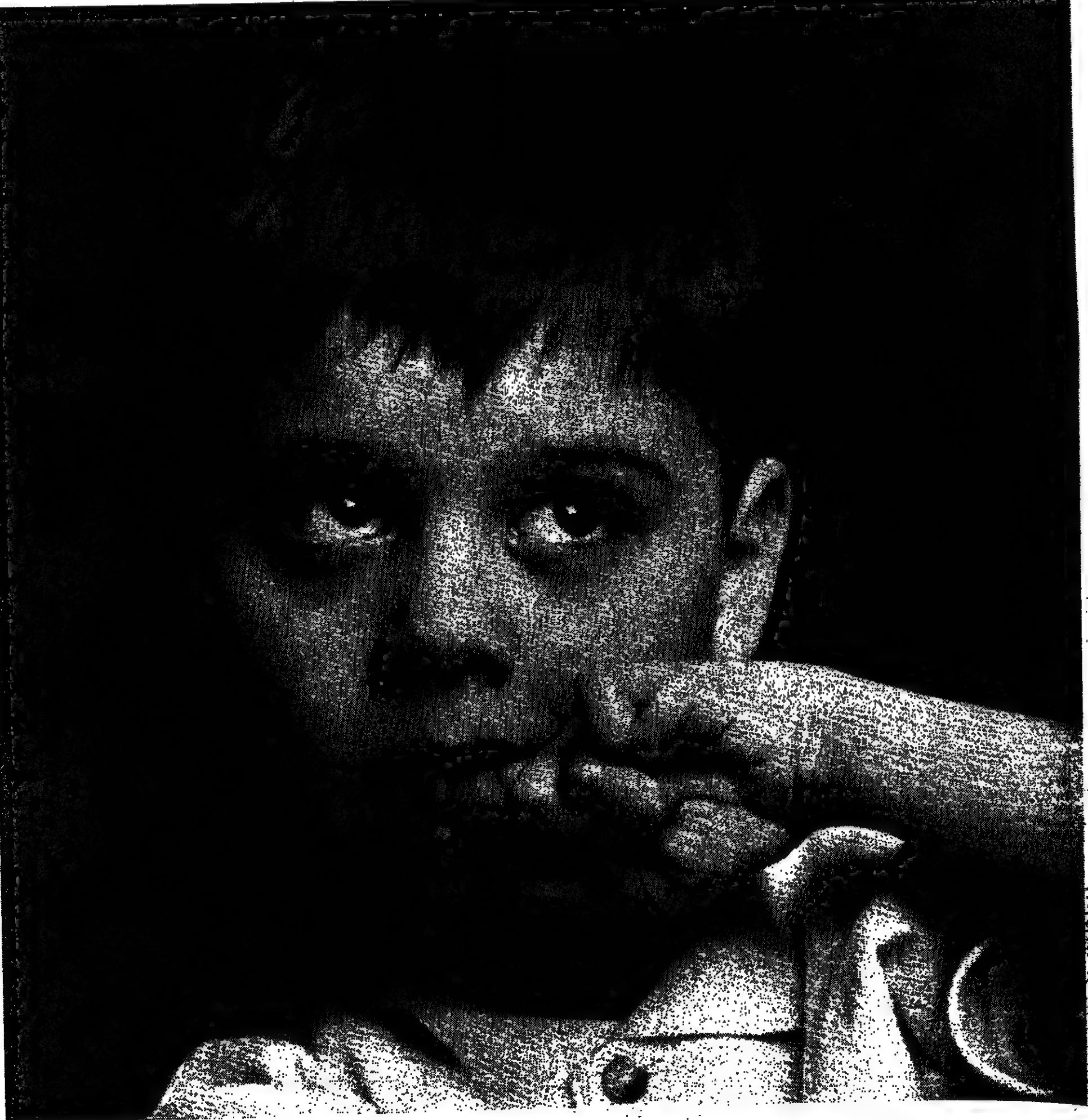
Fears for future of Europe's currency

From Michael Blayon, Strasbourg

Indifference and resistance are threatening the use of the Ecu as Europe's common currency, M Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, told the European Parliament yesterday.

He said that in the first four months of this year the Ecu accounted for only 2½ per cent of the bond market, with a total value of six billion Ecus. Unless steps were taken to reinforce its use, the Ecu would no longer be taken seriously as a European currency in five or six years time. M Delors's remarks, during a debate on economic and monetary union, appeared directed at the Deutschmark and its overwhelming strength as Europe's de facto reserve currency.

MEPs from almost all political groups expressed strong support for monetary union. But the left, especially the large Socialist group, expressed strong reservations over the independence of the proposed European System of Central Banks, known as Eurofed. Several insisted that if the Community did not retain some political control over Eurofed it would not be able to conduct an economic policy of its own.



He's seven years old. He's been blind since birth.
So how come he's scared of the dark?

Remember the Bogey-Man? Did you ever actually see him?

Surely not, but that wasn't too much consolation at the time, was it?

Blind children too, know exactly who he is. And bedtime holds just the same fears for them as it holds for sighted children.

It's something we're made acutely aware of every day at the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Namely, that Britain's 22,000 visually impaired children are children first and blind second.

They need to be loved. They need to have fun. And, of course, they need to be educated. Because, with

the right education, the potential of a blind child, like any other child, knows no bounds.

That's where the three RNIB Sunshine House Schools come into play.

There, our specially trained teachers create warm, loving and stimulating environments where blind children can get the kind of education they really need.

Needless to say, this costs money. That's why the RNIB

Looking Glass Appeal has now been set up to help fund our schools and all the other services we run to help Britain's one million blind and partially sighted people live their lives to the full.

We need to raise £10 million, and every penny counts. Please give what you can.

I enclose a cheque payable to RNIB or please charge my Access ☐
 Visa ☐ card with the amount of £ T.M.B. 92
 Acc. No.
 Name
 Address
 Postcode
 RNIB, Freepost 26, London W1E 3QZ
 For credit card donations ring Charlyne
 0839 77772. Calls charged at 25p per
 min. cheap rate, 30p per min at peak rate.
 17.5p per min of call charge goes to RNIB.

Who will call for sacrifice?

Martin Jacques

There was a strong sense of déjà vu about the latest retail price figure. Not because it was similar to the previous month or the month before that, but because it was a reminder that the issue of the 1970s has returned with a vengeance. Inflation may have stalked the last decade, but for the most part it was only as a memory. Somehow nothing is more symbolic of the unravelling of Thatcherism than the return of the issue that it pledged to remove from the economic landscape. When Mrs Thatcher was elected in 1979, inflation stood at 10 per cent; now it is 9.4 per cent.

By this time next year, it is true, inflation should have fallen considerably. The retail price index can be massaged over a two-year period: what goes up can subsequently come down. The special factors operating now - poll tax, excise duties, high mortgage rates - should have eased in a year's time to present a more attractive picture as the election approaches. The danger is that the present figure will provoke high wage settlements and thereby a wage-price spiral. Already wage settlements of around 10 per cent are becoming the norm, and if inflation continues to rise through the summer, then that figure too will increase.

The Government may or may not succeed in holding the line on wages. It certainly will not be easy. Take workers in the private sector. Apart from the low-paid, they have done extremely well ever since the end of the recession in 1981. Their pay packet has been the true beneficiary of Thatcherite prosperity. Their expectations are high and are now to be disappointed for the first time in almost a decade. The mechanism, as in 1979-81, will be unemployment, which is already beginning to rise in some areas.

Then there is the public sector. Here, the great majority of employees did very badly, compared with those in the private sector, during the 1980s. Teachers, local authority workers and civil servants, for instance, have fallen seriously behind. The majority of academics, perhaps the most extreme case, now earn less in real terms (excluding age increments) than they did in 1971.

The result of all this has been demoralization, staff shortages and discontent in much of the public sector. But the rail and ambulance disputes suggest that some groups at least now feel that there is not a lost cause, that public opinion is moving their way and that the Government's aura of invincibility has begun to fade. As it seeks to hold down public-sector pay in its battle against inflation, the Government could face some uncomfortable disputes over the next year or so.

Labour, perhaps, can be thankful that it is not in the Govern-

ment's shoes. Indeed, its hope must be that the whole issue of public-sector pay will surface in a major way before the next election. For herein lies one of the trickiest problems it will have to face if it should form the next government. According to the Cambridge economist R.E. Rowthorn, the cost of allowing public-sector wages to make up the ground they have lost relative to private-sector wages since 1981 stands at £6 billion, assuming the latter remain constant.

This is a sharp reminder of the material legacy of the Thatcherite era. The great majority of people in the private sector have done extremely well, at the expense of most in the public sector; and at the expense too of investment in public infrastructure and manufacturing industry.

As we peer into the decade that lies ahead, it is precisely that legacy which is beginning to haunt us. There is a growing perception that the public sector needs more money for both wages and investment. And the still yawning balance of payments deficit serves to underline the fact that our manufacturing sector is both too small and insufficiently competitive.

The problem is that any Labour government we are likely to get will be too weak to do much about all this. The priorities of the last decade would have to be replaced by completely new ones. This is already beginning to be vaguely recognized. People are worried about the state of the public infrastructure; to a lesser extent they are bothered about the competitiveness of our manufacturing sector. But they certainly do not draw the conclusion from this that some sacrifice is required on their part, that they should forgo part of their pay increase to finance improvements in the public sector and in manufacturing.

The Thatcherite vision may be fraying at the edges, but there is as yet no new one to take its place. So Labour, still understandably timid after all these years in the political wilderness, says little apart from commending its financial rectitude to one and all, its priorities, in fact, will not be so different from the present government's. You can barely read the phrase "tax increase" on its lips.

Labour will give a bit more money to the public sector, but not a lot. Beyond that, it will refuse to budge. That means it will be quite prepared to sit out public-sector strikes, should that prove necessary. I am not complaining. It is how things are and will be. But the consequence is that the kind of shift in priorities and capital that is really needed will remain a dream, the case virtually unmade.

There is just one rider I would add. Perhaps those defence cuts and the much-mooted peace dividend will ride to the rescue. But that is another story.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Last week, a friend who is the poetry editor of a distinguished publishing house told me he had a writing proposition to put to me. We agreed to meet for breakfast at Blakes Hotel.

Being an optimist, I am no good as a poet. Optimism ruins my scansion, as I am always reading lines back to myself in a peculiar, rushing way, thus falsely convincing myself that they scan. I was pretty certain, therefore, that he would not be wanting any poems from me, but he has interests beyond, or beneath, poetry, and I thought that a scholarly introduction or an anthology of some sort might well be on the cards.

Until then, my experience of publishers' proposals had been somewhat haphazard. Soon after I started writing, I was approached by a packaging company and asked to write a history of lingo. I said I knew nothing about it, but they said not to worry, they would supply all the necessary information. I was tempted, but then they said they wanted 40,000 words within a fortnight, and I felt my creative energy drain away.

During the next year or two, suggestions that I might ghost-write the autobiography of Sir Hardy Amies and a Denis Norden Book of Practical Jokes came to nothing. Things seemed to look up when a publisher asked me to lunch at the Roof Garden Restaurant in Kensington. He had told me over the telephone that he thought he had an idea that might interest me. By this time, I had grown sufficiently experienced as an author to know that no idea is ever mentioned until a good five minutes after the main course is finished. Sure enough, while we were tucking into pudding, the publisher put his proposition to me.

"What do you think of Phil Collins?" he asked.

"Nothing much," I replied.

"Neither one thing nor the other, to be honest."

"Great!" he said, excitedly.

"Just the man we want!" He had been looking for someone to ghost-write Phil Collins's autobiography, he explained, but everyone else he had spoken to either hated Phil Collins's music or loved it. The publish-

ers felt that a kind of sublime indifference made for the best kind of rock ghost-writer. The money was extraordinarily tempting, but Collins pulled out, rather wisely, I now think, and I heard no more about it.

Moving closer to the present time, I received a mysterious letter about a year ago from a public relations company which said that an important client, whose identity it was not at liberty to reveal, had asked it to contact me; he had an extraordinary story to tell, and, being a great admirer of my work, he was convinced that I was the man to tell it for him.

Flattered and intrigued, I rang the public relations man. He could not name his client over the phone, he said, but he could tell me that this client had detailed inside information about the true story of Blue Arrow. "I'm sorry," I replied, "but I really don't know anything about sailing." He explained that Blue Arrow was not a boat, but a City company which had experienced recent difficulties. He didn't seem to be put off by my ignorance; in fact, it seemed to encourage him. Something told me that it was my sheer financial imbecility that had singled me out for the job, and that his client wanted a writer he would be able to run rings around, and so I declined.

And so to the breakfast at Blakes Hotel. Since the days of lingo and practical jokes, Hardy Amies and Phil Collins, I had, I felt, built myself some sort of small reputation, and I was pretty sure that the proposal from someone who was, after all, the poetry editor of a distinguished publishing house, would be commensurate with my new status. A biography of some slightly forgotten literary figure from the 1890s, was I thought, the most probable suggestion, and I wondered just who it might be. Hubert Crackanthorpe? Herbert P. Home? Victor Plarr?

We both finished our scrambled eggs. He stared into his coffee, and I stared into mine. The time for the proposition had arrived. He looked me straight in the eye. "Do you have any strong feelings about Gary Glitter?" he asked.

Mark Almond sees Romania falling victim to all the ills that beset Latin America

After Ceausescu, a whiff of Peron

Looking back on the unhappy parliamentary history of Romania during the 1920s and 1930s, Richard Seton-Watson once remarked that the Romanians frequently had elections, and the government always won. Since ballot-rigging had been elevated to the status of a national folk-art, the normal way to change the government was to resort to a coup d'état or a revolution. Sadly, in this sense, Romania has returned to form after the nightmare years of Ceausescu's rule.

The demonstrators permanently camped in Bucharest's University Square to protest about the ruling National Salvation Front's handling of the current election campaign clearly do not expect much good from Sunday's joint presidential and parliamentary elections. Their scepticism is understandable when so few Romanians have any experience of running multi-party elections, and those few are officials who took part in the manipulation of the 1946 vote which resulted in a landslide for the pro-communist National Democratic Front.

The protesters argue that the

Salvation Front's domination by once (and, they fear, future) communists makes free and fair elections impossible. Leaving aside the widespread intimidation of the opposition during the campaign and the sabotaging of their newspapers by "inefficient" printers and distributors, rumours abound that the voting will not be secret. In a technologically backward society like Romania, it is easy to frighten people with stories of hidden cameras. Since the voting will normally be in police stations, even the most level-headed may be inclined to believe such rumours.

The police (Ceausescu's old police) are under the control of the interior minister, General Ghiac, whose role in the suppression of the revolt in Timisoara last December gives little grounds for public confidence.

To be fair to the Front, it was genuinely enough to let everyone see how far its preparations for the elections left them open to manipulation. It has allowed five long days to count the votes and agreed to allow in foreign observers only when it was too late for them

to be properly organized and distributed throughout the country. The few scores arriving just in time for the poll, and with many leaving before the full results are announced, cannot offer the blanket coverage which 3,000 observers provided in Nicaragua, which has an electorate only one-eighth the size of Romania's. Little wonder that the students of Bucharest have already adopted the slogan, "The only solution is a second revolution."

In all probability, the Front's heavy-handed approach was unnecessary. Whatever electoral upsets have happened recently, its candidate, Ion Iliescu, should have started confident of success despite his membership of Ceausescu's politburo 20 years ago. For most Romanians life is better today. They have more food, light and heating than in the dismal decades under Ceausescu. After dithering on the land question, the Front has begun to split up the collective farms and hopes to earn the peasants' gratitude by doling out land to potential voters.

Despite talking about market reforms, the Front has tried to

build up a clientele in the moribund rust-belt factories by promoting the fear of unemployment which an opposition victory will bring. (To be on the safe side, it also prevented the opposition from organizing in the workplace.)

The opposition parties are so hopelessly riven by personal rivalries that the merits of their policies are hardly discussed. The inability of either the Peasants' Ion Ratin or the Liberals' Radu Campeanu to renounce his own candidacy in favour of a united anti-Front presidential candidate has done much to discredit the opposition. Prominent former dissidents, such as Duina Cornea, have been openly critical of the Front but refuse to endorse either opposition candidate.

The leaders of the Front vehemently deny that they remain communists at heart. But while they may have abandoned communist ideals, their methods of control remain the same. In so far as they have a policy, it is not communist, but Peronist. They have promised higher wages and a shorter working week. They have asked for foreign investment but

refused to accept unemployment or factory closures. Romania is a Latin island in a Slavic sea, and many Romanians instinctively look to the Spanish model of transition to democracy after 1975. However, Iliescu is not like Juan Carlos, a figure above politics. The Front's sacrifice of necessary economic reforms to the political imperative of building an electoral clientele threatens to lead Romania down the Latin American path of hyper-inflation, economic stagnation and political polarization.

Before the Front can reach that unhappy stage, it has both to win the elections on Sunday and to persuade the protesters occupying the centre of Bucharest to go home peacefully. Iliescu knows that it was the failure to disperse the students in University Square which marked the downfall of Ceausescu. If he uses force to assert his authority, he will have let loose a potential civil war. Victory on Sunday, by fair means or foul, will be only the start of his problems.

The author is a lecturer at Oriel College, Oxford.

What we lose by neglecting the special relationship

Jonathan Clark regrets the decline of American studies in Britain—and with it transatlantic understanding

The United States is turning away from Europe. That has been the overwhelmingly prevalent British view since the destruction of the Berlin Wall prompted James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to announce the beginning of "the post-postwar era". Capturing the public mood, a hitherto unknown official in the State Department, Francis Fukuyama, shot into the headlines with his diagnosis of the end of history through the triumph of liberal-democratic capitalism. If our ally is perceived as abandoning its international role as champion of Western ideologies, British commentators are increasingly struck by evidence of mounting isolationist pressures within the US.

As usual, notes tend to obscure our view of events. Far more remarkable than rational American cost-saving responses to the decline of the Soviet threat is the larger, and hardly-remarked, British cultural disengagement from America. The US eagerly seeks to build up channels of communication with Europe to offset military disengagement; Britain is massively indifferent.

Even Conservatives now subordinate the American example. In her 1988 Bruges speech, Mrs Thatcher traced Britain's understanding of human rights to "the European legacy of political ideas". European values had "helped to make the United States of America into the valiant defender of freedom which she has become... The whole history of America is quite different from Europe."

Symptomatic of the disengagement is the difficulty faced by the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London in trying within a short period of each other to fill our three most senior chairs in American history. The need to find candidates for the chairs has highlighted the precipitous decline in the number of our Americanists in recent decades. Redefined as a minority subject, American studies has been squeezed even more than most in the years of austerity, and the scholarly community has

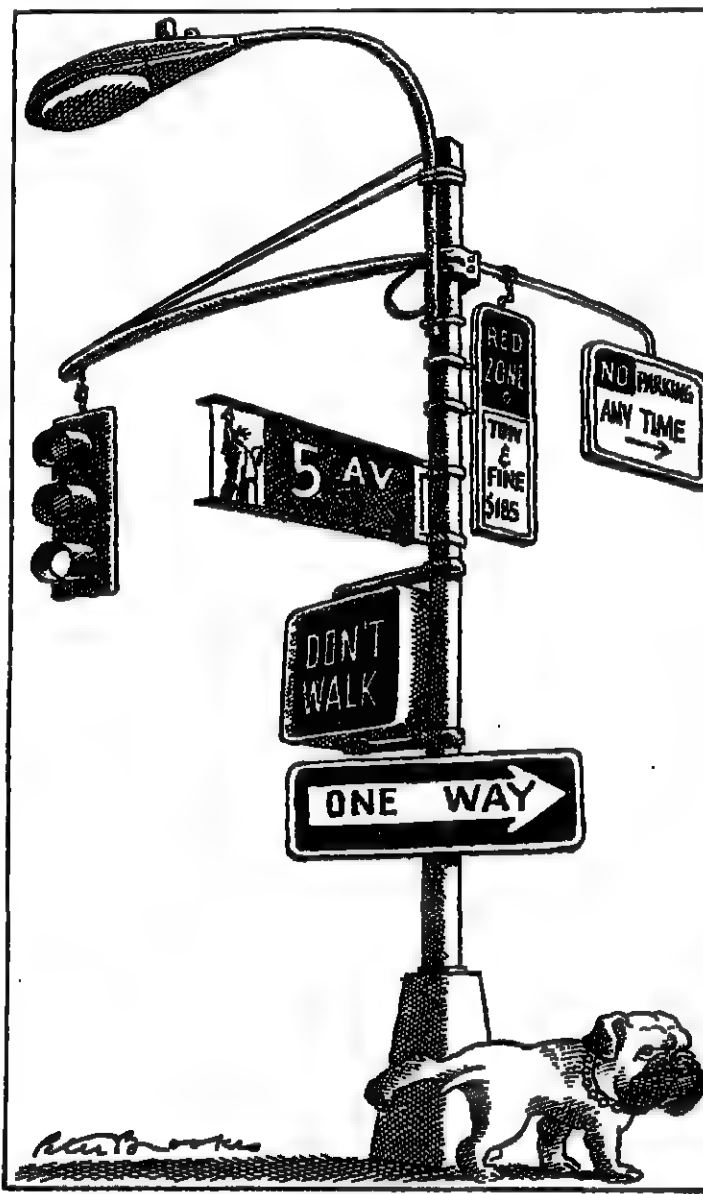
fallen below its critical mass.

At the same time, the decline in British academic salaries and the increasing prosperity of US universities have made it hard for us to attract American stars. At Oxford, the Rhodes professorship of American history remains embarrassingly unfilled. To Americans, Britain seems a backwater for research into domestic American history, and the British have also neglected the study of Anglo-American relations. The most impressive recent work on America's close dependence on an inheritance of British folkways, *Albion's Seed*, is written by a scholar at Brandeis University, David Fischer.

Despite the efforts of J.R. Pole, the retiring Oxford Rhodes professor, we British have never integrated the American experience into our historical vision. Despite close ties over almost four centuries, our image of our own society owes almost nothing to a knowledge of the similarities with and differences from North America. Yet the United States remains preoccupied with Europe and its European inheritance.

So the problem is asymmetrical: the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant ascendancy may be slowly declining in the US, but America's attention to Britain's history and culture is still vastly larger than our attention to theirs. There may now be fewer right-side-of-the-tracks old-school American liberals teaching the story of England's constitutional liberties in Ivy League universities, but British studies flourish on scores of campuses across the continent in a range of new forms.

This is true much more widely, too. In the 1950s and 1960s a cult for things American profoundly modified English taste, to the indignation of the F.R. Leavisites; but since then, jeans and Coca-Cola have become common currency, and it is English modes which now enjoy a vogue in the US. Far from being all-American now, we notice American cultural influences less and less. More and more, we turn to Europe instead. There were always two aspects



of the special relationship: the strategic, sustained by diplomatic manoeuvring and imposed from above, and the cultural, which derived from an identity of language, ethnicity and culture. Either or both could be lost; and while we worry about sustaining the first in a post-Reagan world, we fail to notice the ebbing of our will to sustain the second.

What do we lose by turning away from America? First, we suffer a diminishing understanding of our own culture. The crisis of self-image among British historians and the debate on history in the national curriculum

have been fuelled not only by the collapse of the Marxist version of British history since 1979, but by the slower and more concealed fading of that liberal-constitutional tradition which once bound America and Britain in a shared inheritance of representative institutions and the rule of law.

We also lose insight into our social ills from this failure of identification. Much of the most original research into the underclass phenomenon has been done in the US, but despite the considerable similarities with Britain, works like the Harvard-based Charles Murray's *Losing Ground*

have only just begun to penetrate the British debate. Similarly in criminology: the sensation caused in America by *Crime and Human Nature* by James Wilson and Richard Herrnstein - which tipped the balance of causation from nurture to nature - caused hardly a ripple on these shores.

As well as neglecting our shared problems, we are obscuring our shared ideals. The United States is still the world's most successful capitalist economy, judged by its ability to deliver real wealth (rather than high asset prices) to its populace; yet this achievement has been hidden by the lurid fantasy of New York finance too memorably depicted in Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. Britain is busy adopting as its commercial ideal the more ponderous, and welfare-encumbered, West German model or the indistinctly-planned French example. Our future seems to be with Jacques Delors rather than Henry Ford.

Yet the US remains highly historically self-aware: the American dream is a selectively-interpreted version of the promises of its Founding Fathers. As Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, put it: "A people's historical consciousness shapes political attitudes, helps to define national priorities, and contributes to constancy in the exercise of national power." But when George Orwell wrote that "those who control the past control the present", his insight was dismissed as cynicism.

So long as Britain seeks an American strategic commitment to Europe, one necessary condition of success in the long term is a degree of British cultural commitment to America. American studies in British universities are more than a litmus test of the seriousness of the British elite in sustaining these links: they are the pillar of one end of the transatlantic cultural bridge. If Oxford takes a major new initiative in the humanities as part of its heroic appeal for new endowments, and if it decides that American studies shall be the beneficiary, we will know that the great and the good have recognized the problem. But if not, not.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Propaganda that's paid for

Ever since the 1917 revolution, *Pravda*, the official party newspaper and required reading for every Soviet apparatchik, has been the scourge of international capitalism and its every manifestation. But no longer. It has just decided to accept advertising.

Sovinvest, the agency charged with the task of selling the concept to Western advertisers, declares: "Mr Gorbachov starts his day with reading of *Pravda*. In fact there is not a single person in Soviet corridors of power and higher decision-making echelon who is not a faithful reader." It goes on: "Only a couple of years ago the very notion of the rebirth of the stock exchange in Russia amounted to heresy, but that is not the case any more. It makes sense for a Company wishing to be at the right time in the right place in enormous market to make itself known to its future partners and customers." The paper, which has a daily circulation of more than 10 million, hopes that the first advertisements will coincide with President Gorbachov's visit to the United States at the end of this month.

The official rate for a full page is \$50,000, but discounts will be available and, as a sweetener, advertisements will be accompanied by features about the company written by *Pravda* journalists. And every advertiser will automatically become a member of the *Pravda* Business Club - something that will surely have Lenin, whose bust still adorns the

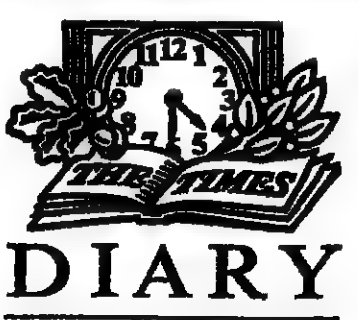
masthead, turning in his tomb. A spokesman for the paper says: "For years businessmen around the world have been complaining that *Pravda* does not give a true image of Western companies. Well, now we are saying, 'OK boys, we'll put that right. Come to us and we'll sort you out.'"

After the Speaker's warning to MPs on over-casual dress, he might contemplate the system adopted in the Belize parliament. Protocol in the central American state dictates that government supporters wear ties, while the opposition goes open-necked.

Out of order

As *The Tablet* celebrates its 150th anniversary today, an unseemly Jesuitical row has broken out in the pages of God's favourite periodical between two staunch Catholics, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell and Father Michael Campbell-Johnston, the head of the British Jesuits. Reviewing Lord Rawlinson's book *The Jesuit Factor*, Campbell-Johnston accuses the former Attorney-General of presenting a "Victorian" account of "villainous Jesuits".

The book, he says, is filled with "an abundance of gross factual inaccuracies", the most bizarre being Rawlinson's suggestion that Campbell-Johnston grew a beard during his first and second meetings with the author. More serious, says Campbell-Johnston, are the biased judgements that pervade the book. Rawlinson himself admits that one American Jesuit he consulted "expostulated that it had been 'the damdest right-wing interview' he had



experienced for many a year". But he was unrepentant yesterday: "Michael Campbell-Johnston was always likely to be hostile. He can't deny the connection between the Jesuits and Marxists in Latin America. My view is the view of Catholic orthodoxy." As for that beard, Rawlinson is still convinced it was there when they lunched at the House of Lords.

Hot potato

With the Globe and Rose trusts aiming to revive authentic Shakespearean theatre, this may be an appropriate time to breathe new life into the tradition of the actor-manager. Playwright Dedwydd Jones has just founded the Society for the Prevention of Unnecessary Directors - Spud, for short - and finds support for his cause in last weekend's show at the Haymarket, on behalf of the Rose Theatre Trust, in which Peggy Ascroft, Bernard Bresslaw and James Fox, among others, appeared without a director.

Jones said yesterday: "I had a glimpse of true Shakespeare, and it was thrilling. Our society aims to put actors and playwrights centre stage and is dedicated to the exposure of sterile, gimmicky artistic directors who take, take, take but give nothing in return. Prominent among those he does have time for - 'doers, not takers' - are Alan Ayckbourn and Kenneth Branagh. Every year Spud will present the 'most unnecessary' artistic director with - what else? - a potato."

The society also plans a book of director-knocking anecdotes. One is Sir John Gielgud's tale of being rehearsed for the part of Oedipus by Peter Brook in the 1960s.

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The casting couch - potato.

During motivation exercises for the scene in which his eyes are put out, Brook urged Gielgud to think of the most horrible thing he could imagine. "We open in three weeks," was Gielgud's response.

Dagger drawn

Thirty-seven years ago, 13 sinister figures, all steeped in crime, gathered at the National Liberal Club. There, under the eye of John Creasey, author of more than 700 detective

novels, and over corned-beef sandwiches and tea, they plotted to form the Crime Writers Association. Today's meeting will be much grander: champagne and canapés at the House of Lords, and the award of the Cartier Diamond Dagger to founder member Julian Symons in recognition of a life-long contribution to crime fiction. He is only the fifth recipient. Symons' latest novel, *Death's Darkest Face*, masquerades as non-fiction, but for literary initiates, the game is given away by the title - a quotation from *Variations*, an 18th-century Shakespearean hoax.

Every one original

One of the most distinctive sounds to come out of the Welsh valleys, the voice of Lord Tonypandy, is honoured today by the Professional Guild of Toastmasters. Tonypandy, better known as George Thomas, for seven years Speaker of the House of Commons, has had to wait two years to collect the coveted award for after-dinner speaking. He was stricken with throat cancer, but has made a remarkable recovery and was yesterday preparing a few words of wisdom for a champagne lunch in his honour. So what is the secret of successful after-dinner speaking? "You should tell an amusing story only once - at least in London. But in Wales I have to admit I have recycled the stories on more than one occasion and just hoped that few people noticed." Of the current holder of the award, Mrs Thatcher, Tonypandy says: "I'm told that she can make highly amusing speeches. But I have never heard one."

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 500

REACTING TO LOCKERBIE

The natural human reaction to the Lockerbie tragedy was horror. The world expressed outrage at such cruelty to innocent people and bafflement that any cause could possibly justify such ghastly means. That reaction remains valid. No community should allow diplomacy or *realpolitik* or the passage of time to weaken the aversion to terror as a political weapon.

The publication yesterday of the American commission report on Lockerbie should evoke a different response. The report shows that specific security lapses contributed to the disaster and that both the Federal Aviation Administration and Pan-Am failed to take adequate measures before and, extraordinarily, after the event. The report suggests that tougher pre-emptive action against terrorist targets would be in order, including military or covert strikes.

Since costly precautions had been instituted to prevent the specific disaster that occurred, the anger against the FAA and Pan-Am is understandable. There are a multitude of risks that the public is expected to accept daily — not least on the roads — where the danger of death or serious injury is far greater than in the air. The difference is that, in this case, prevention was possible. There is no point in trying to make flying safer if those responsible cannot be relied on to do their jobs. Counter-terrorism has made international travel extremely inconvenient. Passengers will accept inconvenience only if it is effective. As in so many areas of security, all the computer hardware in the world can be wasted through human error.

That said, the lessons of Lockerbie must not be lost in anger against both the terrorists and those whom they have successfully made their scapegoats. Anger should be tempered by caution. Should flying now be made even less convenient? Should a similar security net be thrown round trains, boats, tunnels, stadiums, theatres, shopping malls, anywhere people congregate, anywhere the terrorist can be assured of media coverage? Should we react to all terrorism by raising its profile, by doubling security guards and trebling expenditure?

The answer is no. The terrorism/industrial complex now threatens to become as pervasive as was the military/industrial complex in

response to the Cold War. The purpose of the terrorist is to use killing to a political end, to sow fear and despair within democratic communities and thus induce governments to change policy. The terrorist knows well the Chinese proverb, "Kill one and frighten 10,000". Though politicians may choose to imply otherwise, terrorists are seldom random psychopaths. They are pursuing politics by murder.

The first step to giving in to terrorism is thus, simply, to be terrified. The next is for governments to offer a synthetically "tough" reaction, hurling resources and publicity the terrorists way. The Lockerbie report's call for military strikes against "terrorist targets" offers the prospect of tit-for-tat killings across Europe and the Near East. In such a climate, terrorism does not collapse, it flourishes. States may use force where they can avert certain bloodshed without generating further violence. But real life rarely presents such clear-cut options.

Since terrorism is about appearances, so too is the task of countering it. Many Britons were dismayed last week at the sight of squads of bodyguards two rows deep flanking the American Vice-President, Mr Dan Quayle, when he visited London. Like the high-tech fortresses that are America's embassies, the manifestation of fear — the scar tissue of public terror — has become almost a status symbol. Britons would be equally dismayed if the response to the IRA's London bomb on Monday was to turn every military and police building in Britain into a castle, or to surround Mrs Thatcher with gun-toting SAS men. That is what the IRA wants, along with armoured cars for ministers, the end of party conferences, bag searches in department stores and a barrier to Downing Street. So far, only the last has, quite wrongly, been conceded.

The key to a sensible response to these outrages is restraint. The IRA and other like-minded groups are contained not just by sound police and military intelligence but also by a refusal to let civil and political life be undermined. At Lockerbie, terror scored a partial hit. A cautious response will show who really won.

GREEN POLICING

At an environmental conference this week in Bergen, Norway's Prime Minister, Mr Jan Syse, departed from normal references to the millennium and proposed immediate steps to force European governments to improve their global stewardship. They should, he said, agree a binding — and therefore enforceable — code of conduct in areas such as energy conservation and industrial pollution, and submit their performance to vetting by other governments.

There would, said Mr Syse, be an annual examination of each country's policies by other European governments, building on the successful precedent of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's peer inspection of economic policies. Governments would have to notify others of plans involving environmental risk or cross-frontier pollution. They would in turn be able, individually or jointly, to conduct on-demand inspections of other countries' installations, similar to the intrusive verification clauses in arms control agreements.

The idea of international "green policing", which is at the heart of the plan, has received a dusty response from Mr David Trippier, the British minister present at Bergen. He agrees that there must be international monitoring of activities liable to cause transboundary pollution, such as the disposal of hazardous waste. But he insists that routine enforcement should be left to national agencies.

British industry, in his view, would never tolerate inspection by a multilateral green police force. His officials confess themselves scandalized by the idea that inspectors from Norway, 90 per cent of whose air pollution derives from Britain and Eastern Europe, could descend on Britain's power stations to check the sulphur dioxide emissions which reach Norway as acid rain. What, they argue, would Norway think of foreigners counting its whale population? (Norway, in fact, has invited other countries to do so.)

Supranational plans always invite scepticism. The 35-nation Conference on Security

and Cooperation in Europe, to which Norway will take its proposals later this year, could discuss them, but only discuss. A more appropriate framework — if it can avoid the European Commission's tendency to over-bureaucratize — is the nascent European Environmental Agency. At Bergen, non-EC European states, including Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, were invited to participate in the agency. But its remit so far extends only to information-gathering. Agreeing a code of conduct would be difficult enough; policing it multilaterally would, as Mr Trippier says, require a quantum leap.

That is no reason for dismissing the idea. International policing may, as Mr Trippier maintains, never be as effective as informed pressure from below. But countries are blood brothers when they discuss the environmental challenge, cut-throat competitors when it comes to regulation which may affect their industries' competitiveness.

Europe (above all when Eastern Europe is included) is not a level playing field: countries with unregulated industries and cheap labour forces can undercut environmentally-conscious competitors. That reinforces the case for regional standards, even if the hideously-polluted Eastern European countries will require considerable extra time to adjust.

Politicians tend to favour the long view on the environment, not always for respectable reasons. Action today, especially if it hits individuals' pockets, is politically risky, while in the long term, to adapt Keynes' aphorism, they will all be out of office.

Mr Syse personally presented Norway's modest, practical proposals to Mrs Thatcher in March in London, where he aired them publicly for the first time before the Royal Society. She could give Britain's claims to international leadership on the environment a needed boost by giving them a fairer wind than her minister. Green police could be as useful, and come to seem as natural a form of cooperation, as Interpol.

NEW WRINKLES ON OLD AGE

Having done so much to endow young people with respect for others and confidence in their own capabilities, the Prince of Wales is giving his attention to the old. In a thought-provoking speech yesterday, the Prince turned the tables on grey-haired grumblers. He invited those fortunate enough to reach old age in good health to ask themselves what contribution they might still make to a society in which most now expect to live long after retirement.

Although old age has always been part of the human condition, traditional thinking about the "third age" offers little guidance. From Cicero to Simone de Beauvoir, from Montaigne to Norbert Elias, the autumn of human life has usually been regarded as a trial: to be borne with stoic cheerfulness and indifference to advancing decrepitude. Death often seemed the lesser evil; to die nobly in youth or middle age was easier when only misery awaited those who lived to be old.

Little of this seems relevant to the legions of robust, prosperous retired people who today populate so many of the best-kept towns and villages. The stereotype of the Old Age Pensioner has outlived its usefulness. It has even become counter-productive: the image of dependency which it conjures up does nothing to galvanize the elderly.

The debate to which the Prince has contributed should not become bogged down in arguments about retirement ages, statutory or otherwise. As long as seniority remains the principal criterion of promotion in so many principal criterion of promotion in so many walks of life, each generation will impose more or less arbitrary cut-off points in order to make way for the young. Yet the idolization of youth

in Europe and America between the two world wars, intended to sweep away all vestiges of gerontocracy, played into the hands of the Nazis and Communists. In the 1960s, youth was similarly overestimated. Dissolving the rigid demarcation line between work and retirement seems more in keeping with modern longevity.

Instead of tinkering with the age of retirement, Prince Charles is right to emphasize the goal of widening the activities available to those who have retired, voluntarily or otherwise. The prodigious range of accumulated experience and talent among the retired on which the arts, charities, schools and churches may draw is still under-exploited.

Take the case of conservation and the environment. Without the efforts of millions of retired people, how many species of animals and plants would have become rare or extinct? How many buildings would have perished for lack of care or money? The fact that the greening of Britain does not have to start from scratch is largely due to the devotion of the old to this country.

Fifty years ago this week, the militia was formed which later became the Home Guard. Though the threat of invasion soon receded, the nation's affection for Dad's Army has lasted. A call, not to arms but to peaceful activity in the community, should evoke a similar response today. Is it too far-fetched to ask Prince Charles to consider giving his ideas institutional form, not replacing, but complementing existing bodies like the Women's Institute and the British Legion? He has proved that he is more than equal to the task.

Heseltine and local government

From the Chairman of the Association of County Councils

Sir, In his letter of May 12, the Chairman of the Association of District Councils affirms, predictably, what he describes as Mr Heseltine's argument for abolishing county councils in favour of a single tier of most-purpose authorities ("The poll tax: let the people choose", May 10).

In fact, Mr Heseltine makes the far more limited proposal that "we should restore the identity of the old single-tier county borough for our major urban areas". That is very different, but hardly realistic. For example, police and fire services these days need to be delivered at the county level to make the best use of technology and skilled human resources in the fight against organised crime and large-scale disasters.

Moreover strategic and structural planning, and of course transportation policies, so crucial to the maintenance and enhancement of the environment, require a dimension wider than the largest urban area if town and country are to be managed effectively and a proper balance maintained between them.

What is surely clear beyond question is that any debate of this kind must be wholly removed from that relating to the community charge. A proper relationship between central and local government requires a system of local government finance which recognises the true cost of administering and delivering local services and the real financial consequences of new legislation and local demand.

It is only upon the basis of such a system that the partnership which Mr Heseltine advocates, and we welcome, can be restored.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHATFIELD, Chairman,
Association of County Councils,
Eaton House,
66a Eaton Square, SW1.
May 14.

From Mr Roland Freeman

Sir, The key sentence in Mr Michael Heseltine's article is his last: "But if (central government) pays most of the bills and, therefore, there has to be a partnership of power". That is code for the argument that he who pays the bill must call the tune.

Government grants have increasingly been used to try to fix local spending at the level desired by Whitehall rather than what elected councillors think is necessary.

Legal training

From Mr Alan Benstead and others

Sir, On May 17 the Law Society will debate proposals by its training committee on pre-entry training, whose quality David Blayney (May 1) argues may be diluted. As heads of three of the biggest polytechnic law schools providing Law Society Final and Common Professional Examination courses we would make the following points:

1. There should be a fundamental review of the substantive law content of the course. In effect all of the substantive law could be covered by using materials provided before the course begins and through the use of research skills undertaken in conjunction with the transactions which will form the core of the course.

2. We welcome the devolution of responsibilities for the assessment of the course to institutions that have the experience and have demonstrated the capability of delivering to the requirement standards. However, our support is conditional upon the development of effective monitoring mechanisms which we in the polytechnic sector have had substantial experience with as a result of our relationship with the Council for National Academic Awards, Her Majesty's Inspectorate, internal validation and other professional bodies. We look forward to the Law Society using our expertise in the development of such mechanisms which we consider crucial to the successful operation of the course.

3. We support the proposed flexibility in the various routes to attending the LPC (Legal Practice Course). Our institutions have led the way in the provision of access courses, part-time courses and distance learning. We welcome in particular the opportunity given to law schools to offer an LPC course integrated into the LLB degree as well as a part-time course. Indeed, given the current number of part-time students, demographic changes and the recruitment difficulties which firms, particularly in the provinces, are experiencing, we consider a part-time route an absolute necessity.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BENSTEAD (Head of Bristol Polytechnic Law School),
ALAN BLAKE (Head of Leeds Polytechnic Law School),
NIGEL SAVAGE (Head of Nottingham Polytechnic Law School),
Bristol Polytechnic,
Coldharbour Lane,
Bristol, Avon.
May 11.

Sale of paintings

From Mr Anthony Hopkinson

Sir, You reported (May 8) that the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College plans to raise funds for painting to raise funds for restoration of buildings and maintenance of the picture gallery.

The Gainsborough was painted in 1770, the Constable in 1821-22, and the Turner in 1844. Thirteen other pictures are from 1844 or earlier, but most of the 79 works in the collection date from the 1870s. When he bought the pictures in 1881-83, Thomas Holloway was mainly collecting the work of his contemporaries.

It would be sad to see three great works leave the collection, but much sadder if no funds could be found to stop the degradation of the remarkable college buildings.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HOPKINSON,
Melbourn Bury,
Royston, Hertfordshire.

Childcare taxation

From Ms Sue Harvey

Sir, The House of Commons will consider on May 16 the Government's proposal to exempt certain forms of employer-sponsored childcare from taxation. This could be an important opportunity to improve the lot of working parents, many of whom daily have to cope with the consequence of Britain's childcare crisis.

Whilst I welcome the Government's recognition of the need for subsidised childcare, I fear that the proposal as currently drafted will do little for most working parents. It is far too restrictive in its scope. The employer subsidy on many forms of childcare will continue to be fully taxable. As it stands only

about 3,000 parents are likely to benefit.

Parents using childminders, for example, will still be taxed on any employer subsidy. This is because the Finance Bill excludes support for childcare based on domestic premises. Moreover, the requirement that employers be involved in the management of childcare is likely to be a major barrier for many employers (especially small employers) as well as many types of childcare.

Community-based nurseries and out-of-school clubs, particularly, are bound to find that employers are unable to get involved in their management. Parents who use such facilities will therefore be unable to claim tax exemption on any employer subsidy. Cash allowances and vouchers

to raise only one quarter of net local expenditure it becomes a residual figure arrived at after the nationally determined income is known. Accountability is largely a sham. Councillors may propose but Mr Christopher Patten disposes.

Mr Heseltine's plan requires a fresh election where a council's budget exceeds by "a given percentage" the Government's calculations of the sum needed to provide a proper service". Remarkably he assumes that the man in Whitehall really does know best what constitutes a proper service in hundreds of different local authorities throughout Great Britain. That is essentially a bureaucratic premise which he then seeks to reinforce by an *ad hoc* democratic process.

It would be more straightforward to recognise that nearly half local government's current expenditure requires no general consent at all and should be for elected councillors to raise through local taxation. The rest, principally education and police, ought to be financed by 100 per cent earmarked grants making responsibility for them unambiguous. Central government always calls the tune on these two services and it should therefore pay the whole cost to the piper.

Yours faithfully,
ROLAND FREEMAN,
14 Northridge,
Northiam, East Sussex.

From Mr Paul Sykes

Sir, Mr Heseltine's long awaited proposals for improvements to the community charge are a welcome sign of new thinking within the Conservative Party. His suggestion, *inter alia*, that local referenda should be conducted if councils grossly overspend is close to my own view, based on chief officer experience in four English boroughs.

The budgetary cycle should be amended to permit the publication of costed charge estimates two or three weeks before elections are held. Already first-time charge payers are beginning to question the financial effects of some council policies, and provided statutory standards are not impaired, this is precisely one of the aims of the charge principle.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SYKES,
3 Grange Close,
Great Harwood, Lancashire.
May 10.

Awards, Her Majesty's Inspectorate, internal validation and other professional bodies. We look forward to the Law Society using our expertise in the development of such mechanisms which we consider crucial to the successful operation of the course.

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Bristol Polytechnic,
Coldharbour Lane,
Bristol, Avon.
May 11.

We are impressed by the spontaneous demonstrations against this outrage and know that it is the work of a minority. But we have also seen how contagious this disease can be, even among the most civilised and thoughtful.

Yours faithfully,
FRED TUCKMAN, President,
Anglo-Jewish Association,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place, WC1.
May 15.

Attack on graves

From the President of the Anglo-Jewish Association

Sir, The Anglo-Jewish Association commends the outrage of the French nation (report, May 15) against the virus of anti-Semitism at Carpentras. France has been the torch-bearer for freedom and equality and that makes it particularly sad to see racism again at work; after all France has been a friend to one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe.

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Yours faithfully,
FRED TUCKMAN, President,
Anglo-Jewish Association,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place, WC1.
May 15.

Clever county

From Dr Jill Gigg

Sir, On glancing through the list of Tournament of the Mind finalists published today (May 11) I noticed that many came from Cheshire.

Closer inspection showed that the winning school and seven of the 13 finalists had Cheshire addresses. Biddulph and Urnston are not far away, so the addresses of the school and nine of the finalists fall within a 16-mile radius. Is there a logical explanation for this phenomenon?

Yours faithfully,
JILL GIGG,
98 Frantlyn Gardens,
Edgware, Middlesex.

ers to pay for childcare will also continue to be taxed.

It is to be hoped that the Government and Parliament will re-examine the Bill. Are the current proposals likely to make a real contribution towards increasing childcare provision? Will it cater for children of all ages, maximise parental choice and encourage partnerships between employers, local and central government and the voluntary sector?

This important Government initiative should not become a missed opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
SUE HARVEY,
(Managing Director),
Childcare Vouchers,
Luncheon Vouchers Ltd.,
50 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1.

Talk and chalk on the curriculum

From the Headmaster of Colfe's School

Sir, Mr Richard Watson (May 11) advises independent schools to put the National Curriculum on the back burner and criticises Dr Arthur Hearnson (report, early editions, May 5) for recommending its adoption. What is widely recognised is that the National Curriculum will bring a number of benefits to the education system and, just as strongly, that as far as we are currently aware, it contains a number of serious flaws.

While it may be wise to heed the advice of our maintained-schools, colleagues and not to rush blindly into accepting the National Curriculum in all its details, longer term it would be seriously divisive if independent schools were to go along a significantly different path. No doubt employers and institutions of higher education will expect all pupils to have qualifications based on the National Curriculum.

The Academic Policy Committee of the Headmasters' Conference and its equivalent in other independent school organisations are, therefore, striving not for rejection but for improvement in the National Curriculum, which is not yet enshrined in "tablets of stone".

We do indeed want the greater flexibility advocated by Mr Watson, and, it seems, also by the Prime Minister and Mr MacGregor (Secretary of State for Education and Science). We have members working on NCC (National Curriculum Council) and SEAC (School Examinations Assessment Council) committees, though we could do with many more to balance the "non-teaching educationists". We make regular responses to requests for comments on proposals. We also enlist the support of MPs in our efforts to prevent the National Curriculum becoming a straitjacket, particularly at key stage 4.

There is still room for substantial amendment of early proposals

and for giving schools and teachers a reasonable share of teaching time to develop their areas of strength. We shall continue to work for the improvements which will enable all independent schools to embrace the National Curriculum wholeheartedly.

Yours faithfully,
V. S. ANTHONY (Chairman,
Academic Policy Committee,
Headmasters' Conference),
Colfe's School,
Horn Park Lane, SE12.
May 11.

From Mr Norman Isaacs

Sir, Mr Watson advises circumspection on the National Curriculum. While, undoubtedly, there is much in the prescriptions to give cause for concern (and the threat to the survival of the second foreign language, as well as Latin and Greek, is particularly worrying) little good will come if teachers are to resort to countermeasures.

It is simply not true that the documentation has been devised and written solely by escapists from the classroom, and a glance at the composition of the various working parties will quickly show this to be a misconception. The initial advice recently published by the Modern Foreign Languages Working Group, for instance, is a stimulating and challenging report with many pages of useful suggestions for the practising teacher, offered by men and women most of whom are still working hard at what was once affectionately known as the "chalk face".

The public schools must certainly continue vigorously to defend academic standards and play a full part in the debate, not stand aside or aloof.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN ISAACS (Chairman,
Central Subject Panel for Modern Languages, Independent Schools Curriculum Committee),
King's College School,
Southside,
Wimbledon Common, SW19.
May 14.

Missing technology

From the Secretary of the Greenwich Forum

Sir, I strongly support Major-General Woods's call (April 25) for the new national history curriculum to require special emphasis to be placed on the inexorable impact of technological innovations on Man's historical progress. The examples he cites and the dramatic change to codex books and later printing (Professor Currie, May 5) are all covered or implicit in one or other of the 40 history study units (HSUs) laid down for the new curriculum.

In my own field, however, it is extraordinary to see the "Ships and Seafarers through History" HSU (Optional No 8) apparently breaking off at 1805, just at the end of a long evolutionary era. In the last century sail gave way to steam, wood to iron, then steel, which let ship sizes increase greatly. Some bulk ship sizes have increased over 30 times in 40 years.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RANKEN, Secretary,
The Greenwich Forum,
44 Castelnau Mansions,
Castelnau, SW13.
May 8.

Arts Council policy

From the Chairman of the Arts Council

Sir, Your Diary report, "Curtains all round" (May 12), requires correction.

1. The Arts Council knew that the Royal Opera House was planning a deficit of £5 million.

2. It is the policy of the Arts Council to require clients in deficit to balance their books over a three-year period; and there are no exceptions to this rule.

3. The Arts Council dissociates itself from any client that announces an intention to spend its way into deficit regardless of the consequences. It would regard any statement to that effect as being entirely unacceptable; and it would reserve the right, in those circumstances, to review the funding structure of the client concerned.

4. The allegation that I am seeking some sort of clandestine arrangement for the removal of Jeremy Isaacs as General Director of the Royal Opera House is preposterous, misleading and without foundation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PALUMBO,
Chairman,
Arts Council,
105 Piccadilly, W1.
May 12.

London code changes

From Mr William Gould

Sir, British Telecom have done for London what the Anglo-Normans did for medieval Dublin. They have created a pale. But before we in the 081 area (who now have it for certain that we are "beyond the pale") begin beating our breasts in anguish, it is perhaps worth considering a much deeper implication of the recent code changes — namely that in the phone code stakes Londoners now come after Birmingham (021), Edinburgh (031), Glasgow (041), Liverpool (051), and Manchester (061).

Is the "prestige" of an 071 number truly worth £2,000 (report, May 7)?

Yours faithfully,
W. J. GOULD,
30 Eden Park Avenue,
Beckenham,
Kent.
May 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

ARTS

From the land of uncertainty

Krzysztof Kieslowski, whose *Ten Commandments* films are now being broadcast on BBC 2, talks to Roger Boyes

There is nothing Moses-like about the gaunt, chain-smoking figure of Krzysztof Kieslowski, although there are times when, like Moses, he is angry with his own people. His remarkable series of films based on the Ten Commandments does not so much set down the Law as describe how people operate within it. The films are moral fables defining choices and constraints in a no-man's-land of bruised high-rise blocks that could be his native Poland, or could be anywhere. *The Times* critic, David Robinson, wrote that *A Short Film About Love* — the latest to be released in the cinema — "comes as near perfection as may be".

Kieslowski is intense, a graduate of the Seventies' "cinema of moral anxiety", constantly angry in a controlled Swifian sort of way with his audience in Poland ("disgusting aggressive attitudes"), with television ("horribly vulgar") and with politics. The Poles are in a limbo between a disintegrating communist past and a dimly perceived, not entirely attractive capitalist future. Kieslowski documents the dilemmas but does not offer solutions.

"You in the West say that we need money. Not true. Poles need certainty — our problem is the lack of it. Imagine that an Irish terrorist, or whoever, shot Mrs Thatcher tonight; what would the English do the next day? I asked somebody this recently and it emerged he would take the same bus to work, go to the same office, have the same boss and the same employees and he would go to the same cash-dispenser before lunch. But if in Poland somebody shot Tadeusz Mazowiecki [the Premier], everything would change overnight."

"That's the difference, you see. We have no certainty about tomorrow. So of course everybody is grabbing everything as fast as he can. Uncertainty breeds a grasping society."

The theme of Kieslowski's films, from his early documentaries such as *Factory*, to the courtroom drama *No End* (1983), has been the friction between public and private lives. Under communist rule that seemed to make him a profoundly political film-maker.

Workers, in 1972, was a weave of observation of working life: how workers drink and cheat and squeeze enjoyment out of the day. The commentary was not particularly barbed or weighted because the audience, stuffed full of communist visions of clean-cut, noble working-class heroes, did not need

nudging. "I am not a political director but I often take pictures of people in political situations. In Poland a political film, anything political, is always connected with words. Words as an honest means of communication have been liquidated and so I try to avoid them."

Even so, Kieslowski, a former colleague of film-maker Krzysztof Zanussi, comes from a political generation which was initiated by the student riots of 1968 at a time of dirty game-playing within the Polish Communist Party — and broke finally from any sentimental attachment to socialism in the winter of 1981.

Kieslowski completed his course at Lodz film school in 1968 and tried, with other students, to defend his professors from a vicious anti-Semitic campaign. The defence of the students was regarded as proof positive of a "Zionist plot" and the professors were sacked and expelled from Poland. "I turned out to be a political fool and became very cautious," he says.

Not neutral, though. "Of course communism is a lie and a folly, but that does not mean communists are devils." He adds, "Some of them are fools, many of them ill-willed, others are frustrated people of good will. I try to under-

stand what each of them wants."

Although his films are distanced, they are never quite anthropology. He is usually standing next to his hero, behind his shoulder. When he does not — as in *From the Point of View of the Night Porter*, a portrayal of a low-level Nazi — the films tend to be less successful, out of focus.

When General Jaruzelski declared martial law in 1981, Kieslowski reached a turning point. His adult life bracketed by the violence of 1968 and the violence of 1981, he decided that politics was poisoned. Suddenly private lives and private choices seemed more important than exposing political hypocrisy.

"For many years," he says, "I had noticed that when somebody closes the door of their apartment from the inside, communism vanishes. Now people were fencing off more and more, declaring communism off-limits."

The *Ten Commandments* presented themselves as a natural way to explore this terrain. The commandments, Kieslowski admits, are an odd collection, seem-

ing to give equal weight to such diverse sins as killing, adultery, theft and blasphemy. That carries over to some extent in Kieslowski's 10 films, which viewed week after week on television give an uneven feel. The most controversial, perhaps the best film in the series, is *A Short Film About Killing*, a detailed account of how a youth murders a taxi-driver, is arrested and sentenced to death. It is plainly an indictment of capital punishment which is still in force in Poland and many of the new East European democracies. But the public pleading of the film fits uncomfortably next to the very personal *Short Film About Love*, or some of the more skittish attempts.

But Kieslowski is not bothered. The unity of the 10 films comes, he says, in the creation of a common atmosphere, a thread of anxiety that runs through the whole work. Television, he has decided, does not serve them well (cold comfort here for BBC 2 viewers) and the films are best viewed in the cinema. As for the semantic cohesion of the *Ten Commandments*, that is something to be puzzled out by the audience.

"Frankly the commandments are a pretext. If the films were to be direct illustrations of the commandments I would have ended up with sermons. So I made 10 films, 10 stories, connected in some way."

"It occurs to me that all storytellers use the commandments as a

reference. *Crime and Punishment* draws on the same commandment as Number Five, *The Brothers Karamazov* refers to the same commandment as Number Four. Whatever we touch is about the commandments because they are so constructed as to encompass our whole lives."

The relevance of the commandments has not been dulled by time, says Kieslowski, since they are the essence of contemporary law and a measure of behaviour. "Take the instruction not to lust after other people's wives. Fine, it sounds old-fashioned. But you can see that in the America of 1990, and gradually here in Europe too, people have stopped screwing around. Of course it's the Aids problem, but suddenly it appears that returning to the law makes sense for people and society."

"You see, the commandments govern the important and the unimportant, but that is the nature of our lives, a blend of the significant and the trivial."

Plainly Kieslowski has hit on a universal theme after years of addressing Polish or East European audiences. At 49, he is at last gaining recognition through this film series, which is to be shown in several West European countries as well as Britain. Partly this is because he and other film-makers have lost their natural Polish audience. "The Polish film audience disappeared with martial law; people retreated to their homes. Before I felt obliged to give the Poles what they expected, now I don't know what they want."

The Poles were not much taken by the films. The influential film critic Zygmunt Kaluzynski reckons that they "take place in a world that does not exist — Kieslowski has a calculating mind, likes to stretch himself on cases like an aspiring lawyer and the result is an empty series, meaningless and simultaneously solemn and buffoonish."

That is too harsh and judges Kieslowski on the wrong scale. He is not making comfortable television situation drama but a multi-layered film that asks questions about life under stress. "It's a bad mistake to look around and see what people want," he asserts. "There are no clues to film-making apart from one's own biological clock. That is the only reliable guide."

Krzysztof Kieslowski introduces two of his films at the Duke of York's Cinema, Preston Circus, Brighton, as part of the Brighton Festival, on Saturday 6.30pm. Information: 0273 602503. The third in the *Ten Commandments* series is broadcast on BBC 2 on Sunday, 9pm-10pm.



Rosemary (Vicky Licorish, left) and Freedom (Marcia Myrie)

Spirited symbols

THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

Desire Almeida

THE theme of David Lan's play is ecstatic possession by the spirits of the dead, a subject not often aired on the English stage, although previous plays by Lan disclosed an interest in religious practices outside the Judeo-Christian fold.

This is a theme that starts you wondering what exactly impelled his choice of title. Who experiences this desire, the dead or the possessed? Or are the living projecting their desire, which they can only experience by crediting it to someone else?

The spirit of the dead Shona girl, killed in the war for Zimbabwe's independence, is visibly there on Richard Hudson's sun-cracked stage, eyeing her childhood friend Rosemary, who keeps doubling up with stomach cramps and discovering curious bruises on her abdomen. The girl died too young, say the village elders; she wants someone's body to live in.

Rosemary vacillates between her doting father (Louis Mahoney) and her loving husband (Cyril Nri), the first a former headman, the second a government employee never seen without his spray gun. His job is to kill tsetse fly, but, like some other characters he doubles uneasily as a symbol — in this case, Death.

It is quickly evident that Rosemary's father is somehow the cause of her unwelcome behaviour. Alternately bold and docile, her complex of emotions is touchingly suggested in Vicky Licorish's unblinking eye and sorrowful, half-open mouth. Incest, it is good to report, is not the issue here. Lan's conclusions are more original — though you could find a precedent in Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* — and, once Rosemary can vent the pent, her pains end. So the whole palaver is psychotherapy clad in the vestments of religion.

What Lan's own feelings are about this process remain unclear. He delays until very late the entry of the only character who can

unwind a cleft through the maze of unfamiliar habits and assumptions. This is another young guerrilla, a live one this time, well spoken by Michael Buffong, and his name is Danger. The dead girl's name was Freedom (Marcia Myrie, with glowing eyes), and what Lan has grafted into his story of possession is a tale of revolution undermined by a little act of cowardice. It is a graft that does not take because once you see what the author is after the characters acquire a glaze of falsity as they go sliding into a predetermined place.

Yet, despite this manipulative grasp, which makes Rosemary speak as the spirit of her endangered country (as though an English medium in 1940 claimed to speak as Britannia), despite the strains this brings, the play develops a tension far sharper than seemed likely during its repetitive opening.

The Romanian director Andrei Serban has not previously directed a play in this country, and he allows his cast to speak so evenly and earnestly that an air of unreality circles around the play — compounded by the heavy exchange of revolutionary slogans — and does not lift until the drums bring ancestral voices out of the old women's mouths and Rosemary becomes one with Freedom.

Licorish's closing sobs sound the true note of an ordeal deeply experienced. If the experience is nothing like so deep for us, the public confessions provide a dramatic resolution, even while the supposed links with political rebirth look more than doubtful.

CONCERT

Noël Goodwin

The Children's Crusade Festival Hall

FOR most listeners today, *The Children's Crusade* would probably evoke Britten's poignant ballad for schoolboy voices on Brecht's tale of displaced Polish children in 1939. But this quixotic venture from Dulwich College, with its distinguished musical tradition, went much further back in both music and legend. Their *Crusade* was composed in 1902 by Gabriel Pierné, on the medieval legend of children lost at sea en route to the Holy Land, and was here sung in a new and variably free English version by Eric and Nancy Crozier.

Their labour had been for an intended television production, aborted by industrial and copyright problems. It emerged instead as a two-hour oratorio performance in a hall adorned with banners and shields, a choir of several hundred boys wearing what looked like pillow-slips with red Crusader crosses, the adult Wimbledon Choral Society, nine solo singers, the Dulwich College Orchestra stiffened with members of the London Mozart Players, some of whom give musical instruction at the College, and its Director of Music, Michael Ashcroft, conducting overall.

The result, unfortunately, did little to enhance Pierné's reputation beyond that of a sometime

reliable conductor who died in 1937. His musical idiom in this work has a bulwark of triadic harmony supporting melodic tendresse in the lyrical French tradition derived from Gounod by way of Franck and the rosewater piety of Massenet. The *Sempre moderato* often noted in the score became a motto for the whole, until one longed for movement at more than snail's pace.

Praise is certainly due to the College boys for singing so securely from memory, in up to three and occasionally four-part writing, to the adult soprano solos ingeniously taken by Janice Watson and Olivia Blackburn, to Adrian Thompson's finely sung Narrator, and to the Headmaster of the College Lower School, Christopher Field, for his sturdy Martner's song. The orchestral playing sometimes achieved a welcome translucency of musical spirit, into which the occasional daring dissonance dropped like a benediction.

Gremlins in the system and a smell of failure in the air

A NEW series about the Waddingtons might sound like an Anglicized version of *The Waltons* but, one Waddington being an old-fashioned homely village, the other an old-fashioned Home Secretary, *The Television Village* (Channel 4) is in fact something quite different. The latter Waddington is the local MP of the former, a smallish community in Lancashire which — for the filming of the programme's six parts — was plugged into the stratosphere, home to scores of channels, networks and miscellaneous extraterrestrial purveyors of pap.

The idea behind the experiment was to rig up a village with the technology to watch 30 channels,

including its own local one, and see what it thought. Does the availability of round-the-clock basketball on the various galactic sports channels turn the viewer into a basket-case? This and other questions will doubtless be answered in forthcoming episodes, but for at least some of part one it was the duty of Waddington the village to meet Waddington the Cabinet minister responsible for deregulating British airwaves.

The encounter went off smoothly enough — they elected him, after all — but the same, alas, cannot be said for the induction ceremony of WTVV. The four young novitiates plucked from the village's own ranks to present the

TELEVISION
Jasper Rees

local channel were more or less competent, but a gremlin found its way into the system, and, after a racy title sequence, the captive audience on the inaugural night found itself glued to television screens vehemently on the blink.

Hence, plans to run a regular *Thought for the Day* slot were scuppered on day one. The village vicar, the man commissioned to present that section of the schedule, had said earlier that he might "want to say something about the poll tax" (Mr Waddington had

better keep an eye on him). As it was, the *Thought for the Day* was provided by Julie, WTVV's vivacious chief presenter who, when the producer had decided that enough was enough, was heard announcing on air, "what a cock up".

The first programme of *Present Imperfect* (BBC 2), a new documentary series, dished out the sort of unsuiting fly-on-the-wall realism which could never arrive on your screen via a satellite or a cable. Capturing a year in the struggle-weary life of Jackie and Figgie, a newly-wedded east London couple with eight children between them, it had too much subtlety, too much unbearable

frankness, too much laughter in the dark for that.

Called "For Better For Worse", it was also a rockumentary, but was untypical of the genre because the rock stood for rock-bottom as well as rock music. Figgie, the musician in question, was a drummer, but the point was that he was also a sometime drinker and drug-abuser. Unfortunately, the band he played in reckoned his inspiration came from the bottle, so they gave him the sack. The wonder of this film was that, sozzled or sober, Figgie was a natural in front of the camera, ready to lighten even his darkest hour with a performance. The rest of the series has a lot to live up to.

Fine acting makes the evening

OPERA

Paul Griffiths

The Threepenny Opera Tramway, Glasgow

sings the "Ballad of Sexual Slavery" with ripe gusto.

The only professionally trained singers here are Janis Kelly as Polly and Morag McLaren as Lucy, the former bright-eyed and winning enough in her main number to make one wish she had a bigger place in the score, the latter throwing everything, wonderfully, at her parody recitative. Kelly also hits the mark in this Scots threepennyworth by making Polly a little Edinburgh miss who can swear with the best of them.

Sara Weymouth as Jenny should unpeel a layer of class; Graham Valentine as Machbeth presumably needs to recover,

since much of his singing was thinned or squawked up into falsetto. But there are beautiful speaking voices from Donald Waugh, a whisper-babble of melodiousness, and the resonant, sepulchral Andrew Bailey.

Lucy Bailey's production has a good basic look, designed by Simon Vincenzi. When not in character, the players are disturbingly dressed in Strangeways hoods and long leopardskin coats, and they move with an *haute couture* walkway stalk to sit on cinema seats confronting the audience. There is also an apt concentration on the lipstick mouth as an emblem of degraded eroticism: "Mack the Knife" is delivered for us by Eartha Kitt on tape while the words are mimed by lips on a television screen. But the ideas are not followed through, and after the first 10 minutes the show relies on the actors. Stuart Hutchinson conducts neatly but without much punch.

at dancers, owing something to Kylian's *Symphony in D* but finding new jokes of its own.

The physical contact essential in his choreography here changes its significance. Instead of a tender hand on a partner's face there is an appreciative or admonitory pat on the rump. Partnering turns into an ordeal; particularly memorable is a sequence where, reversing the usual roles, one man is bent or stretched into painful attitudes by four women. Mozart's Third Violin Concerto makes an apt if unexpected accompaniment.

Katerina Frankova, one of the company's senior dancers, choreographed the other work given. An attractive lyrical suite of dances to Dvorak's *Waltzes*, Opus 54, it is fresh and varied in mood, and danced with charm and warmth. In all three ballets, Ivana Benesova stood out for her liveliness in an excellent company.

DANCE

John Percival

Prague Chamber Ballet Gardner Centre

called abstract. There is always a strong relationship between the dancers, even when the action parts them from each other.

The inspiration of the choreography comes from Smetana's life as well as his music, but the emotional themes are shaped in a way that reaches the spectator without need for translation into any sort of literary scenario. The cast of six perform it perfectly, with Katerina Rejmanova and Ladislav Rajn deeply touching as the central couple.

Smokoviny shows that Smok can be funny too. It is a comic look

FOUR dancers from this small company brought their ballet *Kreutzer Sonata* for a guest showing with Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, three years ago. Now the Brighton Festival offers a welcome chance to see the whole group in two programmes.

The centrepiece of the opening bill was *My Life* by their director, Pavel Smok. Smetana's First String Quartet is played, very well, by the Kocian Quartet, sitting at one side of the stage, and in content fills every movement made by the dancers.

The only British choreographer with whom Smok might be compared is Christopher Bruce: they share a gift for making dance dramatically expressive and emotionally rich; they both spice the smooth flow of their sequences with elements from folk dance. Smok's approach is less inclined to narrative, but could not be

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A family at war behind the Gucci label

The Gucci story has all the ingredients of melodrama — a simple country girl marrying into a Florentine dynasty, a beautiful mistress, three squabbling sons. And now, James Bone reports, a bitter battle over the patriarch's will

The Guccis have been making leather goods in Italy since the Quattrocento. And it shows. The Florentine dynasty has brought with it to the modern world the best traditions of Renaissance craftsmanship and a flair for family feuding worthy of the Borgias.

During the last decade, the Guccis have been racked by a series of internecine disputes, each more ferocious than the last. In July of 1982 their differences were made startlingly public when Paolo Gucci, son of the patriarch, Aldo, emerged from the boardroom bearing physical evidence of the heat of the debate — a cut to the side of his head. Now, after the death of Aldo, in Rome in January at the age of 84, his British widow Olwen Price, the 82-year-old mother of his three sons, is preparing to plunge the clan into fresh blood-letting.

Two years ago, Paolo vowed: "If the old man dies without leaving me anything, if he makes a will and doesn't include me, I swear that I'll give the lawyers work for the next 50 years."

His prediction seemed certain to come true this month when in a 10-page will filed at the Surrogate's Court in Manhattan, Aldo left half his American assets to "my wife Bruna Palombo Gucci". Bruna Palombo was Aldo's mistress, with whom he had a long-standing relationship, and by whom he had a daughter named Patricia. Patricia, now aged 24, is married to a Venetian wine dealer and was the recipient of the other half of an estate said to be worth more than \$20 million (£12.5 million).

Olwen Price, who lives in Rome, was outraged by the will. Along with two of her sons, Paolo, aged 59, and Roberto, aged 58, she has challenged it, saying it was "procured by fraud, duress and undue influence practised on the decedent by an individual purporting to be his wife, to wit, Bruna Palombo". She claims that she is entitled to the widow's share of Aldo's fortune, which she estimates only as "greater than \$500,000 (£312,000)".

Her court papers also contend that the will filed in New York and executed in Palm Beach, Florida, on November 3, 1989, is invalid because it is superseded by a later will handwritten by Aldo in Rome on November 8. The contents of that will are not known, but lawyers for the estate confirm its existence. A document filed by the estate's lawyers, along with the will in New York, lists Olwen Price as Aldo's "wife" and Bruna Palombo Gucci as a "beneficiary". Aldo was the last surviving son of Guccio Gucci, the Florentine leather merchant who established the modern business and who is immortalized in Gucci's exclusive "GG" label.

Guccio had run away to Britain as a boy, where he worked as a dishwasher and waiter at the Savoy Hotel in London before

returning to Florence to work in a leathergoods store and then set up his own company in 1923. Aldo was raised in England and at 22 he married Olwen Price, aged 19, who was to bear him three sons.

Against his father's wishes, Aldo took himself and his English bride to Rome to open the family's first branch in the Eternal City, on the fashionable Via Condotti, in 1938. While other businesses were forced to close by the outbreak of the Second World War, Aldo moved his family to the country. While there, Olwen helped British airmen who had been shot down to escape.

After the war, Aldo turned his attention overseas. With help from his brother Rodolfo, he opened a boutique in New York in 1953. They went on to establish a chain of shops around the world and the double-G soon became *de rigueur* in the wardrobes of the rich and beautiful. The Guccis counted Grace Kelly, Sophia Loren, Audrey Hepburn, Jackie Onassis and the Duchess of Windsor as loyal customers, and President Kennedy, on meeting Aldo at the White House, told him: "You are the first Italian ambassador of fashion." The Museum of Modern Art in New York bought a Gucci moccasin.

Famous customers gave the Gucci business good publicity and snob value they aroused. Rodolfo's connection with the film world (he was a star of early silent movies in Italy) was also a help. Among the earlier Gucci customers, pre-dating the firm's openings in New York, were Bette Davis and Anna Magnani. Café names were increasingly setting styles for others to follow. The classic bamboo bag and "hobo" bag, the Gucci loafer with harness bits, the red and green webbing stripes, signature dogleash spring clips on handbag straps and interlocking Gs became status symbols. In the 1960s and 1970s, particularly, Gucci enjoyed enormous success.

But success generated rivalries within the Gucci house. The simmering rows erupted in 1980, when Paolo, decided he wanted to go into business on his own using the Gucci name. The company sued him for trademark infringement. And so began an epic feud. In retaliation, Paolo, who now lives in Sussex, exposed his father's failure to pay \$7 million (£4.3 million) in American taxes. Although he could have compromised with Paolo at any time and saved his skin, Aldo's pride would not let him. In 1986, at the age of 81, he was convicted of tax fraud and spent five and a half months of a one-year sentence in jail.

At the same time, Aldo was also locked in a bitter dispute with his nephew Maurizio, the son of Rodolfo Gucci, who had inherited a half-interest in the company when his father died in 1983.



Designer woman: Jacqueline Onassis, a loyal Gucci customer

Maurizio used the interest to seize control of the company, of which he is now chairman. Other family members charged that Maurizio had forged the papers transferring ownership of his father's shares. In December, a New York court finally cleared Maurizio of the charge, overturning a one-year sentence imposed by a lower court. Angered by Maurizio's determination to transform the family firm into a modern multinational, several Guccis, including Aldo, sold part or all of their stake to a group of Arab investors.

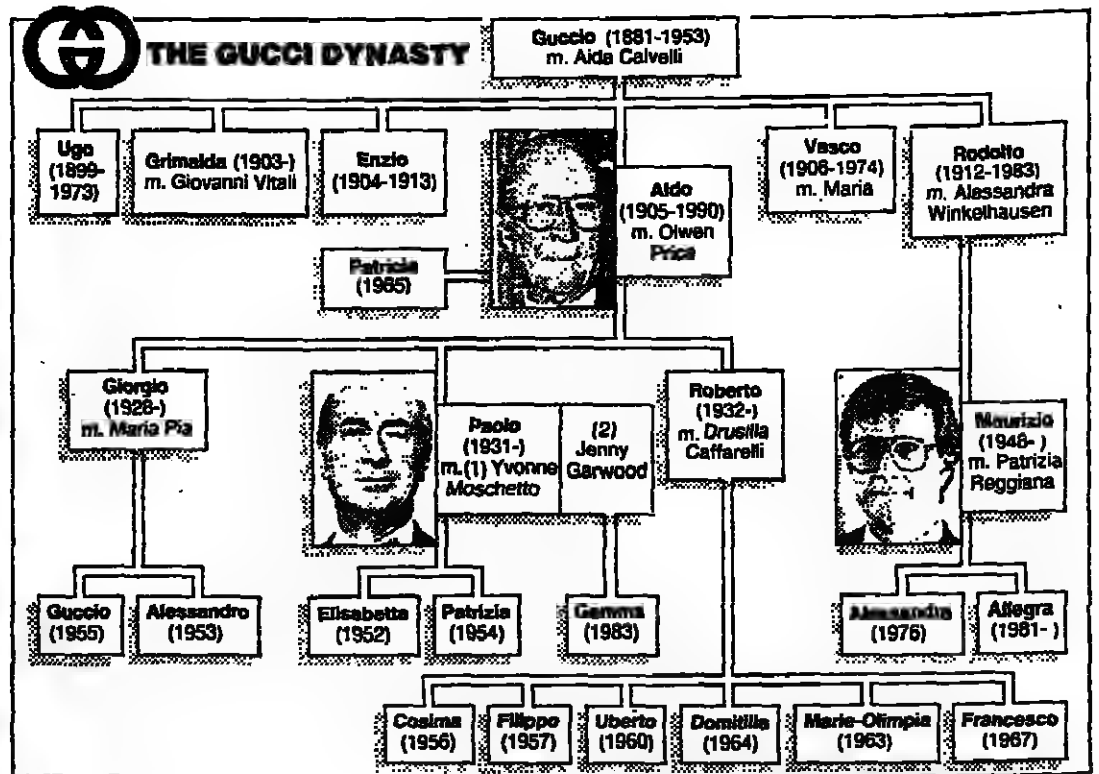
On Monday, Paolo insisted that there is going to be a settlement in the dispute over his father's will. "Everybody will get a fair share, everybody," he said. "We agreed it this morning. Definitely. There is no question of my father cutting my mother out, or getting her to sign away her rights. There is only one will, and nobody can alter that."

So the will that Bruna claims left everything to her will have to be set aside? "I was in communication this morning with my family," Paolo said. "I am sure we have reached a basis of agreement under which I believe my mother, my brothers and I will all share in the inheritance. Amicably."

Paolo is said to be once again attempting to open a business under his own name.

Was that also being amicably discussed? "There is no question about that," Paolo said. "I shall open on Madison Avenue, New York, in September. Definitely."

Gucci have different ideas. According to their New York spokeswoman, Maurizio plans to stop Paolo, citing trademark infringement. Given the Guccis' history, the struggles threaten to follow the family into the next generation.



Aldo and his women

For decades, as he built a fortune, there were two Mrs Guccis — one a dutiful wife and the other a beautiful mistress

Aldo Gucci met Olwen Price in Florence in the early 1920s, while he was working in his father's shop. Into the shop one day came a most adorable and pretty girl. Olwen, a lady's maid to a Romanian princess, breathed innocence and freshness. Aldo found her irresistible.

Olwen was the eldest daughter of George Price, a wheelwright, joiner and coffinmaker in the village of West Felton, Shropshire. Olwen had left the village church school (where they taught no exotic languages) at the age of 14 to learn dressmaking.

So, when the news came that Olwen had found herself an "Italian" husband, and that they were to be married in Oswestry, it came as a surprise. More surprising still was that she had taken his religion and was to be married in the Roman Catholic church.

It was known, of course, that Olwen had been given the chance to go to foreign parts. After the dressmaking, for which she was not paid, she had been glad to go into service as lady's maid to Lady Frances Hope, the Duke of Newcastle's grand-daughter. She was still in her teens when Lady Hope's children's governess left to take up a post in Italy with an exiled Romanian aristocrat. The governess wrote asking if Olwen would like to join her.

It has always been accepted in the Gucci family that Olwen was a lady-in-waiting. This came about because it suited the Romanian family, which could afford no such luxury, to style the maid as lady-in-waiting while paying her the wages of a servant. It was to buy shoes for her employer that Olwen went to call at Gucci — and came under the far from unflattering gaze of the owner's son. They married in 1927.

On their return to Florence Olwen had a surprising adjustment to make. She had married only one Gucci, but she soon learnt that she was expected to take her place in the family as a whole.

In one way Olwen behaved like the best of Catholic wives. She bore her husband three sons in succession, and gave herself wholeheartedly to rearing them. Strains on the marriage began to



The family man: Aldo Gucci and his daughter Patricia

appear only when Aldo wanted her to join him in social pleasures. Olwen was reluctant to leave her growing family.

In the early 1950s Aldo found a new and unusually lovely companion. He was spending weeks at a time in America setting up the opening of the Gucci shop there and he was free to do as he wished. He first met Bruna Palombo in the Gucci shop in Rome where she had been hired by his manager.

She was a magnificent Italian from the south with the raven-haired, soulful-eyed looks of the film star Gina Lollobrigida. Aldo found her irresistibly attractive. When he offered her a job in New York, it was common knowledge that Aldo had found another companion. There were, it has to be said, others, but none with Bruna's staying power.

There was no question of Olwen releasing Aldo from the marriage. So he and his mistress were forced to practise a degree of discretion, while Olwen remained "La Signora Gucci". Under a concordat with the Vatican, Italian law forbade Aldo to live openly with any woman other than his wife.

Aldo bought Bruna a house in England, where in 1961 he had opened a London branch. He then took her to America and installed her in his Palm Beach and Manhattan homes. In 1965, when Aldo was in his sixtieth year, Bruna's child was born — a daughter named Patricia. For the first two or more years of the child's life Aldo lived with them, introducing Bruna as "Mrs Gucci". His long, if intermittent, years with them placed Bruna and

Patricia high on the list of those most likely to benefit from Aldo's estate. Bruna had a car and chauffeur to take her wherever she wanted, and the cachet of signing for credit at the smartest stores in the name of "Dr Gucci". If Aldo's efforts to free himself from his moribund marriage succeeded, Bruna had every right to hope that one day she would be even more favoured.

Divorcing his wife, though, proved infinitely more difficult than either he or Bruna might have believed. In December 1984 Aldo decided he wanted a final legal break. Olwen was living quietly in Rome, behind electrically locked and barred gates. Aldo petitioned for an English divorce because the marriage had "irretrievably broken down".

A copy of the petition document was posted to Girtin Road, Oswestry, which had been Olwen's cottage. She heard its contents from Ewart, her brother, with astonishment. Olwen and Aldo had certainly ceased to live as man and wife, but whenever he was in Rome he visited her. She declared that there had never been any mention of divorce, let alone an agreement to seek one. Olwen protested and Paolo and Roberto took up their mother's case. In the legal battle that ensued Olwen made it clear to her lawyer that she did not accept that she and her husband had separated, although she was upholding her status as his legal wife and ensuring that she stood the best chance of being her husband's beneficiary.

Gerald McKnight

● From Gucci: A House Divided, published by Sidgwick & Jackson.



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Primitive tendency

THE early American primitive look is incontrovertibly in. John Lewis, of Hungerford, Berkshire, has a new range of wooden furniture and a "colonial" kitchen, launched at the interior design trade exhibition at Olympia, west London, this week, and on view at Liberty, in Regent Street, W1. There are six new pieces, including a pie safe — a ventilated storage cupboard designed by 19th century New Englanders — and a three-legged "cricket table" in a choice of seven finishes. Prices range from less than £200 to more than £1,400 for a refectory table.

A job for life

Following the article on the advantages of staying in the rat race (*The Times*, May 3), Professor Richard Shilling, a consultant in occupational medicine, draws attention to his report in the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine* last year, which states that "work seems to be essential for both physical and mental health, although one must add the rider that fully occupied leisure counts, for this purpose, as work". It cites the suggestion of Cyril Clarke, "an eminent physician and geneticist", that one reason why women live longer than men could be because "there is no retirement for them whereas many men, after gainful employment ceases, become less active both physically and mentally". Perhaps it is a

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

good thing that woman's work is never done.

Nobody's niche

Small wonder niche retailers such as Sock Shop have been having trouble recently, when nobody seems to stick to their niche. Tie Rack and Sock Shop now sell knickers, instead of leaving that out into silk vests and shorts that can be worn as outerwear. Swimwear is the newest addition to the Sock Shop range, with some racy styles in one-piece and bikinis in bright, fluorescent colours, for £14.99.

Artistic relief

Planning to decorate a nursery with money no object? Original drawings and watercolours by favourite children's illustrators such as Beatrix Potter and and Walt Disney will be auctioned at Sotheby's on June 7 and 8 to aid Save the Children. They can be viewed between 9am and 4.30pm on weekdays and between noon and 4pm on Saturday and Sunday from Tuesday, May 29, until Wednesday, June 6.

Victoria McKee

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MEDIA

New ingredients in an Irish stew

British newspapers are now produced with considerable efficiency and most of them are making good profits. The heady days of the immediate post-Wapping era may be over, the effect of high interest rates on property and job advertising has cut revenues on even the strongest newspapers. But the over-manning, the obsolete method of double-stroking a keyboard (first by journalists and then by compositors), the ludicrously short working week and the general padding of pay packets are now in the past. Managements regard "new technology" as a battle won.

The position is very different in Dublin, where a major dispute over the introduction of, yes, "new technology" has been in progress for several weeks. The stakes are all the higher because the Irish capital — a city of only a million inhabitants — is the arena for what must be the most competitive newspaper battle in Europe. There are three Dublin dailies: the *Irish Independent* selling about 120,000; the *Irish Times* (90,000); and the *Irish Press* (60,000). They compete with all 11 English nationals. Then there are four Dublin Sundays selling against 10 English Sundays, and there are two Dublin evenings. The Dublin dailies are all selling at higher prices than the English invaders.

At the end of last year Ingersoll Publications, the American-based publishing group headed by the expansion-minded Ralph Ingersoll II, bought a 50 per cent stake in Irish Press Newspapers for nearly £5 million, leaving editorial control in the hands of Eamonn de Valera, grandson of the Irish statesman who founded the paper, but taking full management control (for which they receive a fee which would be increased if the paper went into profit). Since the three Press newspapers have been losing nearly £1 million a year for some time, and since their standard bearer, the *Irish Press*, has fallen from being the best-selling Irish daily to third on the list, it was clear that Ingersoll intended to take fairly drastic measures. That is what the current negotiations are about; they are not going too well.

While Mr Barney O'Rourke of the Irish Press Union (representing the compositors) says the principle of "direct input" has been accepted, there are substantial hurdles. The management is seeking to make redundant some 72 IPU members out of 103; the union wants all departures to be on a voluntary basis. The management wants a five-day week throughout the paper; at the moment a

four-day week (of only 28 hours for IPU members) prevails. The IPU says this is not negotiable. The journalists are ready to use the "new technology", but before they negotiate a payment for it, they want a rise of some 15 per cent to make up for annual increases due to them under national wage negotiations but not paid because of the parlous condition of the company. And there is a considerable disparity between the redundancy terms offered to the print workers by the company and those sought by the unions; these are so high that it would take some 17 years before the savings would start to pay off.

The management faces another problem. The unions have agreed that none will sign an agreement unless all sign. Further, the NUJ and the IPU have agreed terms for a merger. At the moment this is stalled because the NUJ is an English union, and under a law recently passed to facilitate Irish mergers, those with a "foreign" union were barred. An appeal is planned, but meanwhile the NUJ will not take any IPU jobs.

THE PRESS

Charles Wintour

which once masqueraded as "negotiations" in Fleet Street, when the print unions simply did not believe they could ever be defeated.

In Dublin, however, the unions have noted two significant points. First, Ingersoll recently told the *Irish Times* that Irish Press Newspapers could go into liquidation if profitability could not be restored. Secondly, the existing premises have been re-zoned for inner city development and could be worth up to £8 million. So Ingersoll could close the papers and walk away with a profit.

I am sure he would prefer to make the papers pay. If he obtains the efficiency he seeks I am assured that he would employ more journalists, put in new equipment, in new premises, and invest another £8.5 million in the company. He has made a success of his investment in the Midlands; relaunches of all three Birmingham papers are planned for the autumn.

If the precedent of the English print unions was followed, the Irish union leaders, rather than negotiate with a genuine commitment to produce a profitable and successful newspaper, would be ready to see all 900 jobs lost. But this is Dublin, where the unexpected often happens. I hope it does so again.

Why does Whitbread sponsor yacht races, golf and the arts? Geraldine Bedell reports



Author Richard Holmes (left) with chairman Sam Whitbread

When the first of 22 ocean-going yachts race into Southampton this weekend, they will not only be finishing a nine-month, high-profile sporting event, they will also be bringing a £200 million business enterprise to a close.

The yachts in the Whitbread Round the World Race have names like Rothmans, Merit and Steinlager 2, all promoting products that are no longer easy to advertise on television, and certainly not in association with athletic achievement.

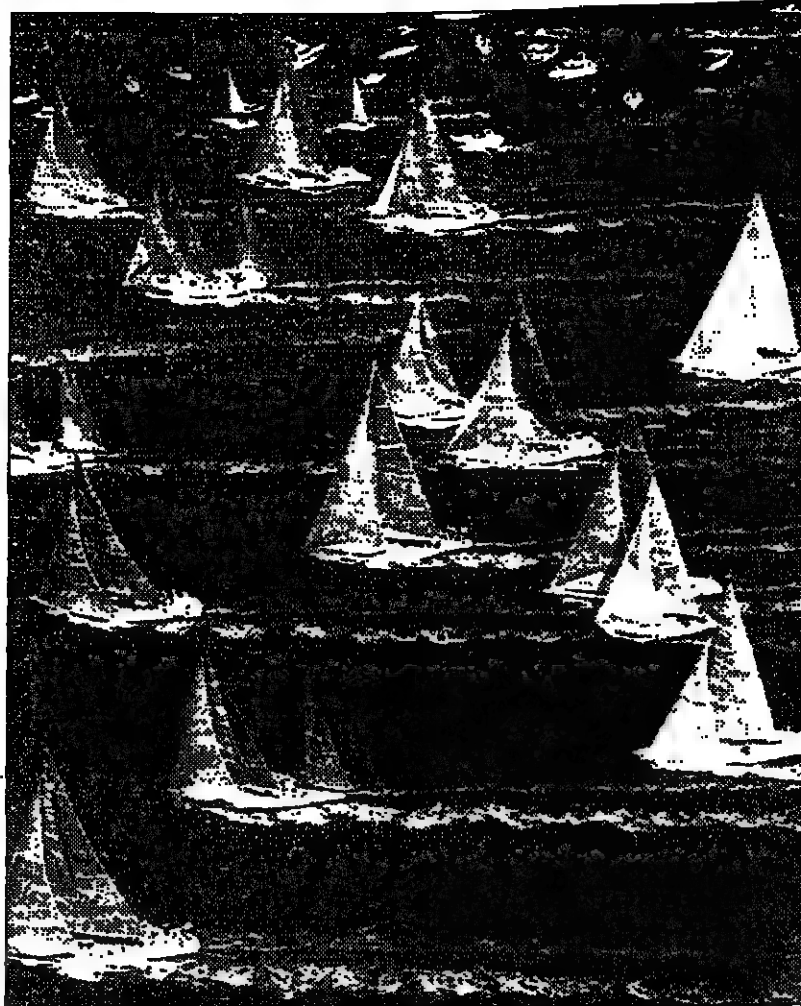
Some of the sponsors may have paid not only for the yachts, but also the salaries of up to 12 crew members and all back-up. Or backing may have been less comprehensive: some crews have paid companies for the privilege of entering the race.

Rothmans International, one of the biggest backers, admits to having spent £6 million. There are also numerous sub-sponsors, such as British Telecom, which has organized all the ship-to-shore communications and press centres in ports of call.

Big sporting events are no longer merely about sport. "The race is basically a major communications vehicle," says Paul Vaughan, sponsorship director for Whitbread, which held the first race in 1973. The competition to back such events is now so intense, Mr Vaughan says, that unless they are fortunate, companies virtually have to start their own. "If you wanted to sponsor the Barclays (football) League, you'd probably have to wait a long time."

Many events start small and stay that way. But for Whitbread, the four-yearly race has grown impressively. This year's, the fifth, has had television coverage in 140 countries and on programmes such as *News at Ten*, considered to have far more impact than an advertising break.

The race is never mentioned without the Whitbread name, which not a bad return on its reported £4 million investment this time round. The figure is less than some of the yacht sponsors are spending, although Mr



Plain sailing: Whitbread sees the race as a "communications vehicle"

World-wide sails drive

Vaughan says Whitbread has to underwrite considerably more.

The opportunity for subtle image building is a strong attraction of sponsorship. "Round the world yacht racing is similar, in terms of glamour, to Formula 1, which we couldn't do because of the drink-driving connotations," Mr Vaughan says. "The race is technologically at the leading edge, it's environmentally sound, and it's all about human endurance and the pursuit of the ultimate challenge."

But, Mr Vaughan stresses, "you can't just write the cheque and walk away. Effective sponsorship involves a hectic round of sales promotion and tying in brand names."

Sponsorship is not just a matter of alerting consumers to a good deed done. There are internal spin-offs that

are important for company morale. Large numbers of Whitbread employees were at Southampton last September for the start; a team of Beefeater Steakhouse managers was in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for the start of the last leg, and two directors have been at each port of call.

Perks are clearly part of any sponsorship package, and it must be easier to sell an event that looks attractive to a board of directors. Mr Vaughan acknowledges that sponsorship was once wholly determined by what directors liked to do in their spare time, but he believes this is no longer the case.

"The criteria now are, first, whether an event is strategically relevant, and, secondly, what the audience and reach will be," he says.

The audience Whitbread hopes for from the Round the World Race is "opinion formers, the graduate recruitment market, and the wider community". Sponsorship, which is tax deductible, can be useful in helping a company look more responsible; Mr Vaughan says Whitbread hopes to associate the next Round the World race more closely with its business in the community activities.

Sponsorship can also be used to overcome advertising restrictions. It is no accident that sponsorship has grown over the past 10 to 15 years as greater restrictions have been placed on advertising, nor that alcohol and tobacco companies lead the field.

Rothmans has linked its Round the World sponsorship to on-pack promotions, allowing the use of imagery not a million miles from its old airline-captain advertising.

Whitbread plans to link the next race to educational material. "Subjects like geography, design and art can all be linked to the race," Mr Vaughan says. He denies that there is any school resistance to this type of salesmanship in the classroom. "Only 50 per cent of our business is beer. The other half is made up of things like Beefeater Steakhouses and Pizza Hut, where we do want to reach children. And, in fact, the educational establishment is crying out for sponsors of GCSE packs to aid teachers."

Whitbread also sponsors tennis, golf, racing, ice hockey and Rugby League, and spends an estimated £78,000 on the Whitbread Book of the Year, won this year by Richard Holmes for *Coleridge: Early Visions*. "We do less arts sponsorship; it is directed at a much smaller audience — government, the City and other opinion formers," Mr Vaughan says, but, at £22,000 for the winner, the Whitbread is the biggest of the literary awards.

However, gauging the effectiveness of sponsorship is more difficult than for advertising. "We know the volume of coverage, and we can equate that to advertising frequency," Mr Vaughan says. But the two may not be directly comparable: advertising is branded and carries a stronger sales message.

A study to ascertain whether the public associates the yacht race with Whitbread has had "very encouraging" results. But does this translate into consumer action? Would the race motivate the public to buy Whitbread-owned products? "Sponsorship is not replace advertising, but it is an important additional plank in our strategy," Mr Vaughan says. It performs a more subtle, wide-ranging function. Puritans can find much to object to in it: the directors' perks, the subtle messages that would not be permitted in advertising, the reaching of consumers, like children, who would not otherwise be reached. But, without Whitbread and all the companies backing yachts or involved as sub-sponsors, the Round the World Yacht Race would probably not exist.

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Those obvious objects of desire

From Michael J. Fox and a cola bottle to the Ninja Turtles with a taste for pizza, product 'placing' in the cinema is booming, James Bone reports

Two of the great Hollywood studios, Walt Disney and Warner Brothers, announced recently that they would no longer allow their films to be shown in cinemas in America which show advertisements before the main feature.

The move won applause from film buffs, tired of sitting through interminable soft-drink advertisements. A poll sponsored by Disney claimed that 90 per cent of the public wanted to be rid of the ads. Disney's pay-cable television channel is also advertisement free.

But the studios' seemingly altruistic decision has backfired by focusing attention on the insidious and increasing business of "product placement", in which studios accept payment to feature particular merchandise in the film itself.

Even as it was enjoying the plaudits of filmgoers for its decision to ban advertisements from cinemas, Disney was alleged to be sending out letters soliciting product plugs in its next film, titled *Mr. Destiny*.

According to *Advertising Age*, a trade magazine, the studio was asking \$20,000 (£11,900) to "place" a product in the film, and a full \$60,000 for an actor to actually use it.

The result of such "placing", in the words of Professor Mark Crispin Miller, head of the media studies programme at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and author of a recent article in *Atlantic Monthly* magazine which ignited the controversy, is to make going to the cinema "about as memorable as going to the airport".

In the early days of cinema, it was common for films to feature products. That changed with the advent of television, when most national advertising shifted to the small screen. As television viewers became more adept at flicking through the channels to avoid advertisements, however, advertisers turned once again to the cinema, where the customers provide a captive audience.

Product placement became so com-



Dream machine: the James Bond Aston Martin was not "placed", but it helped start a fashion

mon in the 1980s that an industry grew up sustaining dozens of companies brokering deals between advertisers and studios.

The advertising industry magazine *Adweek* recently analysed Universal Pictures' *Back to the Future II*, a continuation of the adventures of a teenage time-traveller. It concluded: "The heavy-handedness of the product-plugging dominates the first half of the movie."

The first 10 minutes go like this: the Toyota nameplate on a lorry is prominently displayed, an empty Miller beer can is used to fuel the hero's time machine, one of the actors opens a bag advertising Nike training

shoes, an AT&T telephone box is seen in the background, Michael J. Fox, the star of the film, straps on a pair of 21st-century Nikes, another character advises him to go to the local bar and order a Pepsi, Fox reads a 2015 copy of the newspaper *USA Today* with the same layout as the present-day version - and Fox starts in awe at a futuristic Texaco petrol station with a can of Havoline oil prominently displayed.

Adweek said that if the trend continues, "there won't be any movies as we know them, just prolonged ads." Almost no important picture is untouched. One of this year's big successes, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Tur-*

bles, for instance, features a scene in which the heroes not only eat Domino's pizza, but also get a discount when the pizza arrives late - standard Domino policy. The company reportedly paid a five-figure sum to have the plug included.

But all product placement records are expected to fall in Paramount's forthcoming *Days of Thunder*, an action-packed film about racing cars. Billed as a "sequel" to *Top Gun* - the film about US Navy flyers which boosted recruitment when it opened - *Days of Thunder* stars Tom Cruise. But, more importantly, he drives a Chevrolet Lumina tattooed with sponsors' logos.

PRODUCT PLACEMENT THE BRITISH WAY

COMPARED with America, product placement is only a cottage industry in this country, and limited to films. Despite the recent relaxation of some of its rules governing programme sponsorship, the Independent Broadcasting Authority says product placement is "not allowed under any circumstances", and is unlikely to change, even when the IBA is replaced by the "light-touch" Independent Television Commission. The BBC also bans anything that carries even a whiff of plugging.

But the IBA acknowledges that the days when labels were scraped off bottles in bar scenes and cornflakes were tipped out of plain boxes at sitcom breakfast tables are gone. And, although most ITV companies write a clause into their staff contracts that forbids plug-

ging, many products find their way on to the screen.

The brokering companies already operating in the US believe this "new realism" is opening up opportunities in Britain. Several have already sprung up here and Rogers and Cowan - a marketing and public relations company - is opening a specialist product placement division next month.

Tony Fitzpatrick, Rogers and Cowan's managing director, believes that with production costs rising so sharply, British producers, the independents in particular, will welcome the practical assistance that the kind of companies Rogers and Cowan represents could provide. These include Ford, Seagram and Schweppes.

Lisa O'Kelly



Michael J. Fox and Pepsi bottle

A new row is brewing between MPs and the Press

Parliament is about to mount its high horse once again. Because they are no good at disciplining themselves, MPs are preparing once more to punish journalists for doing their job. A series of leaks from select committees, the all-party, department-related groups which since 1979 have done valuable work in investigating policy and revealing the government decision-making process, have upset some of their chairmen and members.

The *Times* printed the leaked report of the Social Services Committee revealing errors in Government statistics, and invalidating claims about how much the Government had helped the poor. The *Independent* carried details about police records in a leaked report from the Home Affairs Committee on the Crown Prosecution Service. The *Guardian* had details from a leaked Trade and Industry Committee report on the sale of Rover to British Aerospace.

The *Guardian* has been summoned before the Privileges Committee to explain why its premature disclosure of a memorandum was not a contempt of the House. It will be questioned by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Leader of the Commons, and by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General. The *Independent* has been called in to explain itself to the Home Affairs Committee. And there are corridor mutterings by Committee chairmen and MPs of dire actions to be taken if all this leaking doesn't stop.

Sooner or later, if the affair runs true to form, we will see an attempt to make an example of one of the reporters of the leaks. The Privileges Committee will pronounce, the Commons will be asked to confirm the sentence. And, if precedent holds, MPs will accept what a lot of nonsense it is and refuse to sanction punishment.

There is a yawning gap between the theory and practice of the laws of parliamentary privilege and contempt. They are antiquated - it was only in 1971 that the Commons formally removed the law prohibiting reports of its debates - and they are applied only spasmodically.

The Privileges Committee confirmed in 1984-85 that leaks go on all the time: "The clear rules of the House have frequently been broken," it said. But only six cases have

Is it a leak or a plant?

been referred to the Committee in 25 years.

Typical was *The Economist's* publication of a leaked draft report from a committee on the Wealth Tax in 1975. The Privileges Committee called for the editor and reporter to be excluded from Westminster for six months -



Sir Ian: support for Press

and MPs rejected the idea by 64 votes to 55, the low voting figure a comment in itself.

In 1986 Richard Evans, the present Media Editor of *The Times*, and then a political correspondent, published a leaked draft chairman's report from the Environment Committee on radioactive waste. The Privileges Committee again sought a six-month exclusion, and the Commons voted by 158 votes to 124 against the idea on the grounds that "it would be wrong to punish a journalist merely for doing his job."

What is so absurd about the burgeoning row on select committees is that their members are seeking a protection from normal journalistic enterprise which is denied to the Cabinet or any branch of Government and Whitehall.

As Sir Ian Gilmour, the Conservative member for

Chesham and Amersham, said in the Commons debate on *The Times* case: "The idea that MPs, once on a select committee, should be pampered and protected from publicity, and that the protection should be reinforced by penal sanctions against the Press, is quite absurd."

News, as William Randolph Hearst said, is something that someone does not want published. The sooner it is published, the newer it is - and political journalism is highly competitive.

The truth is that newspapers cannot print leaks from select committees if MPs don't provide them. If Committees wish to stop leaks they have to discipline their MPs. And if they cannot do that there is no call in a free society for them to seek to discipline the media.

In their hearts, MPs know this: that is why they rarely, if ever, vote for the punishment of a journalist when the lumbering absurdity of the privilege laws is brought into play.

What quality of justice would Parliament dispense if a journalist was punished and the invariably anonymous leaker was not? For, as the Privileges Committee itself has reported: "It is clear from the evidence and from the nature of many of the leaks that the majority of them... are the deliberate work of members of committees acting for political and personal motives."

MPs complain that the work of committees is damaged by the breakdown in trust consequent on premature disclosure. That claim is exaggerated, if not erroneous. These are grown men living in the public arena.

What they forget is that journalists live by disclosure. If they were to offer a special deal to select committees alone, reporting only what they wanted reported, when they wanted it reported, then the public would rightly be suspicious of the journalists' impartiality in reporting the rest of what goes on in Parliament.

They have a job to do: so do journalists. The only case, surely, for sanctions to be applied to the reporting of politics is where it may endanger national security.

Robin Oakley

The author is Political Editor of *The Times*.

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Application forms to be returned by May 25th.



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8.30: Briefing about tomorrow's meeting to discuss forward plan for the next 6 months. Must get all the marketing analysis up to date and ready by this afternoon - essential for decision making.

9.10: Teamwork bookings are flooding in! This seminar is going to be a real winner! Plan itinerary for speaker's U.K. tour next month. Check hotel and venue arrangements for next week's events - these seminars must go without a hitch.

Interesting phone call - detailed discussions about specific course requirements for an in-house seminar with blue-chip company. Must get this contract!

12.30: Dash to meeting - visit possible new venue for London events - looks promising from the brochures...

15.00: ADMIN time - Get marketing orders fixed out today for the next series of seminars to be mailed - tight deadlines must be always be met in this business. Timing is essential!

17.20: Check up on last minute details for next week's seminars - numbers to hotels, travel arrangements, hostesses etc.

Another long day, but lots achieved! An exciting, busy day ahead tomorrow too! For the right person with drive, stamina, excellent organisation and communication skills, the ability to assume responsibility and to take the initiative, this exciting job with a new and fast developing seminar company could provide you with the career opening you are looking for.

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BBC 1

4.05 Around the World with Willy Fog. Animated adventure series (r) **4.30 The Movie Game**, inter-school video and film quiz hosted by Philip Schofield. Taking part today are teams representing Kingbury St Mary's School, St Alban's RC Primary School, Cambridge and Cornuaught County Middle School, Baginbun.

5.00 Newsworld. The news magazine for young viewers 5.10 **Moonchild**, Episode two (r).

5.35 Neighbours (r). **5.10 Northern Ireland: Sportsweek** 5.40-6.00 **Inside Ulster**

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Alan Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather

6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: **Neighbours**

7.00 Wogan with Jonathan Ross. Today's guests include Cive James, Robert Maxwell and, with a song, Wilson and Phillips

7.40 The Kon Tiki Man. *Readle in the Wind*. Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl attempts an Atlantic crossing in a reed boat — the oldest ocean-going vessel built by early man — to prove his theory that the first civilisation reached America in 1492, when Christopher Columbus made his famous voyage. (Ceelex)

8.105 Dailies. More melodramas concerning the oil-rich Texas folk. (Ceelex)

8.50 Points of View with Anne Robinson

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Kathryn Lewis. Regional news and weather

9.30 Inside Story: Beyond Reasonable Doubt. Charles Wheeler presents the latest television allegation of a miscarriage of justice — one concentrating on the three men convicted of murdering PC Keith Blacklock during the Broadwater Farm riots in 1985. The programme argues that in each case the only evidence against the men was contained in their own confessions, extracted under pressure by the police

00.00 News and weather followed by Wild World. Scientist Robin Fellow observes the giraffes of Tanzania's Serengeti National Park (r) **3.50** News, regional news and weather

04.00 River Journeys. Christina Doddwell explores the Wahi River in Papua New Guinea — by rail (r)

05.00 Italian Regional Cookery. The enthusiastic Valentine Harris sends her series sizzling with recipes from Sardinia. The culinary delights of these regions include a myriad of lamb dishes, pig wool sauce and the "Briatana" favourites of spaghetti, pizza and espresso coffee (r)

06.30 Film **90** with Barry Norman. *Reviews of Music* Back, with Jessica Lange, and Nicolas Roeg's *The Witches* (r)

07.00 DEF II: The Invaders. In his week's episode of the vintage science fiction serial *Defenders*, a lunar landing team are stalked by a strange red fog (r)

08.50 Words Apart. Young people of different religious persuasions discuss whether there should be separate state-funded schools for Muslims

09.30 Rapido. It is *au revoir* to Antoine de Caunes as the series comes to an end. Tonight's featured artists are Public Enemy, Aswad, Was Not Was and Charlene Couture

10.00 Arminia. A double bill beginning with *Face of Ignorance* — film critic Bob Hodge queries the colonialist number of as yet unrecorded insect species that are likely to disappear for ever with the destruction of the

University (Fm only) and films. Headlines
concerts: Elgar's
Symphony No. 6,
Arthur Schnitzler,
Isralim Hagen,
Kurt/Kozler (Soma-
rit; Bern)
10.00 Concert:
No. 24 in D; Beaur
concert (cont): Weber
No. 2 in C
11.00 Concert:
St Martin under
Joelster (Patric
and George Brass
under George Piano
No. 2 in G minor, Op.
Philharmonie unter
Mariano,
Gaspary, piano)

of the Week:
Thr. Overture for
London
Orchestra under
der Wiege nach
neen Balke.

No James Levine,
the Philharmonic
RSCO under Dudot,
with piano),
197 (Gubenkian
C Orchestra under
Duc)

ingham CO under
al, with Krzyzost
nform, performs
George Bach (*The*
1 and 2, Suite,
his Feast, Op. 51),
Monks. The Celtic
forms Beethoven
CO, Op. 102 No. 2;
Pawlosky (Relief V)
Orchestra, Op. 73)
voice with Susan
Anson (Trumpet
C Orchestra under
Neville
John
Britten (Cantiche
John John
Peter, Pears,
Benjamin Britten,
Elliott (Piano
Concert): Harmonic Orchestra
use Balzch with audio
music). Mozart
concert: Experts say
Glass
K356: Broad
glass harmonica,
Jinch. Flute, Helmut
s, Ernst Nippas,
orchestra (The Bluebird,
Copland
on Spring; St Louis
concerto Salkin);
Schwartz Group
s, final chorus.

Soloists, Orchestra
cons of Houston
Opera under Gunther
1.00 Concert:
1.05 Concert Hall Live for
BBC concert hall,
Vassilis Lefteris,
concerts Each (Free)
Finage I in sharp m
883); Schubert (Mort
musicals, D 780); Co
Nos 3 and 5 in A
concert (Deux Etude
11 and 12)
2.00 Record Review (r
3.10 Vintage Years: Vienn
concerts by the Vien
Bronslav Huberman
performs Beethoven
Concerto in D
4.00 Chart Everybody Get
Marlene Dietrich, Car
5.00 Eastern Approaches
Graham Fawcett, Pic
Romania
6.30 Help for Pleasure
Richard LaValle
7.00 News
Third Era: A discuss
years by Robert Mc
7.30 Brighton Festival 199
second visit to the F
this week, Leipzig
Christophorus Choe
this orchestra, distingui
programming policy
concentration on Japan
under George Moutou
Bernard Bach (*The*
suites for orchestra,
BWV 1066, No. 5, BWV
1068; No. 12, BWV 106
8.10 Interval Reading
9.05 Three Japanese Mini
Thoughts on the Japa
member director, who
compiled from the Japan
Western sources by
Henry Gull 8.25 Four
and Harvey, Mary H
and Andrew Ball, per
perform Poussou (L
Chevauchee Fantasia
H. Lullaby;
Correspondences)
10.00 Trading with the
Adam Philips. Prince
Paul Bohoragat at the
Cross Hospital, presem
first of two programs
sexuality, perversion
culture. Experts say
could be the origins of
eroticism/s; the usual
pornography and chas
social

11.00 Concerts of the W
Tchaikovsky - The Fa
Years, 1988-93 (The
Voyevode, Op 78; it's
Cuckoo. The Nistrac
concerts
12.00 News 12.00 News

Moises, Orchestra and
ones of Houston Grand
under Gunther Schuller
concert hall, London.
JC concert hall, London.
nessa Literature, piano,
and (Chacabuco and
of *Ch. Sharp* minor, BWV
8:28) Schubert (Memento
sica), 4:57; Chopin
No. 3 in A flat, Op. 47
No. 1, Op. 11, and
No. 11 and 12.
cord Review (1)
cord Year: Verma PO
and PO
onslav Hudemart, violin
fers Beethoven, violin
ncerto in 2)
onal Ensembles From King's
College, Cambridge
tern Approaches with
arn Fagot, Part 2.
r
only for Pleasure with
ntal Basso
and
as: A discussion
ed by Robert Newman
onal Festival 1980
The concert to the Festival
week, Leipzig
chestr, distinguished by
its grammy policy and
its concentration on authenticity,
for George Moosdorf
the orchestra, No. 1 in C,
IV, 106, No. 2 in B, BWV
1067, No. 2 in B, BWV 1067;
and
Interval Review
as Japanese Minutones
ught on the Japanese
and the orchestra
nigled from Japanese and
any Guil 8:25 Pousseur
No. 2 in C, Op. 10, mezza
Andrew Ball, piano,
mo Pousseur (La
vaillante) complete;
y (Luz Long) complete;
responances
ing with the Enem-
in Philips. Principal Chid
and the orchestra
s Hospital, presents the
of two programmes on
uality, pervasion and
the Enem-
the origins of re-
ationalism; the use of
ography and sexual
n-
sponsors of the Week-
s, 1980-93. The
ology, Op. 78; it's Not the
No. 8, The Nidracor,
s, 12:50 Pousseur

LW (s) Stereo on FM
5:55am Shipping Forecast 8.10
News Briefing: Weather 8.10
Newsday 8.25 Prayer for the Day (s) 8.30 Today, incl. 6.30, 7.0, 7.20, 8.0, 8.30
News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 8.35
Yearley in Parliament 8.57
Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Motweek: Libby Purves talks to William Linn, a consultant in London, who is also an expert on sword swallowing and fire eating, and introduces him to Stromboli, a performer who does stunts. Other guests are television personality Nina Myskow and a dredger of the river Thames, Ron Good (s)
10.00 News: Gardeners' Question Time from Cambridge (s)
10.05 Morning Story: The Potlatch of Emerikale by Frank Tuohy. Daily Service (s)
10.45 News: The John Jay. John Mortimer introduces an insight into the secrets of the jury room through the personal beliefs of two jurors, one of whom has served on a jury.
11.47 Yes, Mr Churchill: Marian Walker Spicer, private secretary to Winston Churchill through the Second World War, in ssa conversations with June Kna-Mawer (s)
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm The Litmus Test, Mike Scott hosts the game of four panelists tackling a batch of controversial issues in a quiz. Investigation of science (s)
1.25.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Lunch (s) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News: Woman's Hour: Jenni Murray talks to the jazz and cabaret singer Elaine Delmar; a report from the Edinburgh Festival where the all-woman group Carousell is doing dance and theatrical work with learning difficulties; and a discussion on Shere Hite's books and mail surveys. Serial: The Other Occupant (s)
2.00 News: A Room in Budapest. A new play by award-winning playwright Ken Wilentz set in the time of the Hungarian uprising. A young woman suffers emotional conflicts as she grieves the suffering on

both sides of the struggle (s)
3.47 Time for Verse: Alexis Lycour interviews poet Hugo Williams (s)
4.00 News
4.05 File on 4: Care in the Community: will it lead to a better deal for the elderly, handicapped and mentally ill (s)
4.45 KateCordero Extra: A review of *In the Skin of a Lion* by Michael Ondaatje, an interview with the playwright Nick Deane a report on adultery in literature; and David Robinson talks about the latest Leningrad Exhibition at the Museum of the Moving Image (s) (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
5.55 PM 6.00 Clock News: Financial Report
6.30 Brain of Britain 1980. Chaired by Robert Robinson (r)
7.00 News 7.50 The World at One
7.20 Face the Facts (new series) John Wate investigates allegations of injustice and the abuse of authority
7.45 Medicine '90 with Geoff Watts (r)
8.15 Forum on Democracy: From the Grand Committee Room at the Palace of Westminster, an international panel of politicians and an audience of parliamentarians, writers and academics, explore how the democracy always defines the human rights and the prosperity which the people of Western Europe seem to

9.15 KateCordero: Live broadcast from the Brighton Festival (s)
9.40 PM 9.55 Financial World Tonight 9.55 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: *Catfish 22* by Joseph Heller (r)
11.00 A Good Night Out. A montage of memories about a night on the tiles in the 1920s and 1930s (s)
11.30 Lottery in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast
FM as LW except:
11.00am-12.00 For Schools (s)
1.55pm Learning Centre (s) 2.05-3.00pm Catchup 3.15-5 PM (cont'd) 11.30-12.10am Open University 11.30 What Drives Technology? 11.50 Luther and Music 12.30-1.10 Night School

REQUIREMENTS: Radio 1: 105.3kHz/285m/108kHz/275m/FM 97.6/99.8. London area FM-104.1(s). Radio 2: 69.3kHz/283m/108kHz/303m/FM 88.9/90.2. Radio 3: 121.6kHz/247m/FM 80.9/82.4. Radio 4: 198.4kHz/1515m/FM 82.4/84.6. Radio 5: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 6: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 7: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 8: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 9: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 10: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 11: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 12: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 13: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 14: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 15: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 16: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 17: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 18: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 19: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 20: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 21: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 22: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 23: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 24: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 25: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 26: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 27: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 28: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 29: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 30: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 31: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 32: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 33: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 34: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 35: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 36: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 37: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 38: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 39: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 40: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 41: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 42: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 43: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 44: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 45: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 46: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 47: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 48: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 49: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 50: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 51: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 52: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 53: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 54: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 55: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 56: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 57: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 58: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 59: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 60: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 61: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 62: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 63: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 64: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 65: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 66: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 67: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 68: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 69: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 70: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 71: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 72: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 73: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 74: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 75: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 76: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 77: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 78: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 79: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 80: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 81: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 82: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 83: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 84: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 85: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 86: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 87: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 88: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 89: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 90: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 91: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 92: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 93: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 94: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 95: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 96: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 97: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 98: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 99: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 100: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 101: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 102: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 103: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 104: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 105: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 106: 152.9kHz/283m/FM 97.3. Radio 107: 152.9kHz/2

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ing (1972) *Caddy On*
and *William Williams*,
and *Charles*
Tronlight
(1988). *Blly Dee*
female detective framed
and to uncover the
organ *Farrchild* and *Jee*

5:00am *As Sky One 8:30* *Volley*
Eurosport What a Week 11:30
Boring 12:00 Formula 1
1:00pm International Motor 1
Cycling 3:00 Motor Sport 3:30
Handicapping 3:00 World Cup H
Golf 7:00 Trans World Sport
Championship Boring 10:00 *UEFA Cup Final 12:00* *Temis*

SCREENSPORTS

7:00am *Motor Racing 9:00 P*
International 10:00 Spain Spain 5

7.00am Motor Racing 9.00 P
International 10.00 Spain Spain 5

and subsequently disowned. When the case is stripped to such essentials becomes difficult to understand how the jury came to convict. But the jury did not have the benefit of Wheeler's clinical hindsight. Nor did they have the information that one of the defendants was illiterate and had a mental age of 10 and that another suffered from claustrophobia. Had these facts been disclosed at the trial it seems that conviction would have been unlikely. You begin to wonder how it is that television researchers are able to dig out such material, but not, apparently, the lawyers who were defending the accused at the time.

10.30 Film The Hiddle of the Salmon (1986) starring Jack Thompson. The issue of the sale of salmon to patients to save the two survivors of a plane which crashed in the Australian wilderness while on a routine flight from Brisbane to Sydney in 1937. After a search lasting six days found nothing, it was assumed that all on board had been killed. But a local farmer discovered that the authorities had been looking in the wrong place. He set out alone into the almost impenetrable wilderness to attempt the rescue. Directed by Chris Noonan. Northern Ireland. Open 11.15. 11.15 Film 89

12.05 Film The Last Days of Pompeii 11.45

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Cross Wins: Trivia/word quiz game
hosted by Tom O'Connor 9.55 Thames
News and weather
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Anne
Diamond gives viewers the chance to air
their opinions
10.40 This Morning: Magazine series
presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard
Maseley
12.10 Allsorts (1) 12.30 Home and Away
1.00 News at One with John Suchet.
Weather 1.20 Thames News and
weather
1.30 The Adrian Stoddard Health and
Beauty Show: The good doctor shows
how to give your partner a relaxing
massage, explains why yoga is good for
children and reveals what real men
know about grooming. Followed by
Crimestoppers.
2.00 A Country Practice: Australian
medical drama 2.30 Take the High
Road: Highland romp
3.00 Connections: General knowledge
and lateral thinking game show 3.25
Thames News and weather 3.30
The Young Doctors
4.00 Rolf's Cartoon Club 4.25 Spatz:
Children's serial set in a fast-food
restaurant 4.55 Bugs Bunny and
Friends
5.10 Blockbusters
5.40 News with Sue Carpenter: Weather
5.55 Thames Help: Jackie Spredley with
details of the Stepfamily organization
6.00 Home and Away (1)
6.30 Thames News and weather
6.50 Suspect: A woman with the marriage
evidence convinces on Rolford, the

- 0.00 The Art Of Landscape. Scenes of beauty from the natural world set to music.
- 0.30 The Channel 4 Daily
- 1.25 Schools.
- 2.00 The Parliament Programme
- 2.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service presented by Susannah Simons
- 00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning
- 3.00 In Charge: Planning For Safety. How supervisors are trained in safety aspects. (Cetel)
- 4.30 Channel 4 Racing From York. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the EBA Middleweight Stakes (2.35); the Hambleton Sprint Handicap (3.05); the William Hill Derby Stakes (3.40); and the Mail on Sunday 3-yo Series Stakes (4.10)
- 5.30 Fitnes-to-One. William G. Stewart introduces another 15 contestants ready to battle it out for a place on the leaderboard.
- 6.00 Go For It. Action packed series for children, especially those with special needs. The week 8s children learn how to water-ski and there's an insight into a circus in Scotland. (Oracle)
- 6.50 Flight Over Spain. An aerial view of the 15th-century city of Granada, perhaps best known for its Alhambra Palace. Narrated by Allan Hargreaves. (Oracle)
- 00 Lontyne. The first of a series of 13 programmes following the progress of a Thames barge on a 2,000 mile voyage from Tower Bridge, across the Channel to France, Belgium, Germany and Austria, undertaken by film producer Richard Goodwin. Tonight's sees the voyage from London to Calais

model railway manufacturers from the West Midlands or the Somerset Ironing coaches scoop the post in the travel game show? (Oracle)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)

8.00 Up the Garden Path. Sue Limb's perceptive comedy with a marvellous central performance by Imelda Staunton as the zany schoolteacher and headmistress.

8.30 The Royal Lush Show. A showcase for the top American vermiculite!

9.00 Mistress of Suspense: A Curious Suicide.

● The Patricia Highsmith trilogy ends on a strong note and I spoil nothing by revealing that the despite the title this is a story of not suicide but of murder. The question is not who has done it, for we saw the crime committed. Rather, the interest is in how the killer did it and how he will cover his tracks, a far more satisfying form of drama. As often in Highsmith the motivation is psychological rather than material. Although as a narrative the piece is essentially no more than a story, the story is so well told that it is subtle and convincing. Stephen (Nicol Williamson) is an American doctor on holiday with his wife (Jane Lapotina) in Bath. Their relationship appears somewhat on the prickly side. The explanation begins to emerge when Stephen visits Roger (Gary French) old college friend in Wales, an encounter that elicits memories and triggers violence. There is a fine, understated performance from Williamson and the tension is maintained to the very last frame



- 10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and Julia Somerville. Weather 10.30
- 10.35 *Thomas News* and weather
- 1.05 *Scottish Sport Special*. Highlights of Scotland against Egypt (who compete in England's World Cup group) in Aberdeen and the Republic of Ireland against Finland in Dublin. Plus action from the second leg of the Division One play-off between Newcastle and Sunderland
- 12.30 *Team News*. Long-running New York police drama series (1)
- 1.30 *Stories in the Night*. The pros and cons of dowsing
- 2.00 *Videofashion*. A look at the traditional British fashion houses
- 2.30 *America's Top Ten*
- 3.00 *High Gallery*. The Little Black Bag
- 3.30 *Disorderlies in the Rear*. Two tales of the supernatural (1)
- 4.00 *The Channon & Ball Video Show*
- 4.30 *Fifty Years On* (b/w)
- 5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Anne



between Mayer and two of his critics fails to strike the expected sparks

10.00 **The New Statesman.** *Rik Mayall* stars as the egotistical Conservative backbencher whose pursuit of fame and fortune this week takes him on a Nazi hunt (1)

10.35 **Film: The City (1974, b/w)** starring Rudiger Vogeler and Yella Rottlander. A photo-journalist finds himself traveling with a nine-year-old and their journey takes them across America, the Netherlands and Germany in search of her grandmother. Nicely amusing and full of strange surprises, the film offers insight into American culture. Directed by Wim Wenders

12.35am **Catpaw Season.** For one month every year, the carnival fever hits Trinidad and everyone is prepared to party all night

1.40 **Luther Vandross in Concert** recorded at the Wembley Arena (1)
Ends at 2.35

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 1012-1013.

WEDNESDAY MAY 16 1990

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-29
● SECRETARIAL 31
● SPORT 39-44

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6780 (-0.0030)

W German mark
2.7668 (-0.0001)

Exchange index
87.5 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1731.6 (-1.9)

FT-SE 100
2212.2 (-2.3)

USM (Datastream)
130.02 (-0.19)

Market report, page 29

Hill Samuel in launch of new fund

Hill Samuel and three leading European fund managers with a total of \$64 billion under management are to launch an umbrella fund to invest in British, French, German and Belgian equity markets, using quantitative techniques.

The fund will take the form of an open-ended investment company whose shares will be quoted in Luxembourg.

Hill Samuel's partners in the venture will be CCF in France, BHF in Germany and Kredietbank in Belgium.

European Multi-Index Fund, as it is to be known, will charge management fees of 1/2 per cent annually.

Border warning

Border Television has forecast that its results for the year to April 30 are likely to be below those of the previous year. It confirmed that the dividend would be maintained, but failed to halt a 4p slide in the share price to 37p.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2824.07 (+2.54)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	31997.04 (-46.61)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2898.08 (-11.36)
Amsterdam	Amst. 100	1173.00 (+0.1)
Sydney	Sydney 20	1057.81 (+0.4)
Frankfurt	DAX	1051.25 (-0.08)
Bremen	Brem. 100	6168.20 (+44.39)
Paris	CAC	3527.12 (+2.07)
Zurich	S&P	616.74 (-1.1)
London	FT-30	1731.6 (-1.9)
FT-100	FT-100	2212.2 (-2.3)
Gold	Gold	317.5 (-0.4)
FT 1000	FT 1000	36.13 (+0.06)
FT 1000	FT 1000	77.05 (+0.10)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES	NEW	OLD
Avon	630p	(+13p)
Allied Lyons	452p	(+15p)
Bentley	150p	(+10p)
Glaxo	150p	(+10p)
Henderson Admin	705p	(+10p)
Rechem	470p	(+25p)
Carlton Comm	330p	(+10p)
David & Newton	425p	(+20p)
Blenheim Exhib	280p	(+25p)
Yale & Vitor	296p	(+12p)

FALLS	NEW	OLD
Glaxo	812p	(-10p)
Sedgwick	230p	(-5p)
Ultras	341p	(-9p)
Hunterprint	45p	(-10p)
Derwent Holdings	725p	(-10p)
Barr W A A	350p	(-10p)
Central TV	667p	(-15p)
Herrburger Brooks	175p	(-20p)
Morris	280p	(-10p)
Rank Organisation	780p	(-15p)

INTEREST RATES	NEW	OLD
London Bank Base	15%	
3-month interbank	15%-15 1/4%	
3-month prime	14 1/4%-14 1/2%	
US Prime Rate	10%	
Federal Funds	8 1/4%	
3-month Treasury	7.65-7.75%	
30-year bonds	10 1/2%-10 3/4%	

CURRENCIES	NEW	OLD
London	£1.6780	£1.6775
DM	2.7668	2.7668
Swf	2.2035	2.2035
FF	6.5532	6.5532
Yen	161.50	161.50
ECU	1.3663	1.3663
SDR	1.7879	1.7879
ECU	1.3663	1.3663
SDR	1.7879	1.7879

GOLD	NEW	OLD
London	£367.40	£367.75
AM	£367.40	£367.75
Close	£367.50-368.00	(£219.25-219.75)
New York	Comex	£370.10-370.60

NORTH SEA OIL	NEW	OLD
Brent (June)	£18.10	£17.85
Discount	£1.00	£1.00

TOURIST RATES	NEW	OLD
Bank	Bank	Bank
Amsterdam	2.28	2.28
Brussels	2.28	2.28
Frankfurt	2.28	2.28
Geneva	2.28	2.28
London	2.28	2.28
Madrid	2.28	2.28
Paris	2.28	2.28
Rome	2.28	2.28
Stockholm	2.28	2.28
Switzerland	2.28	2.28
Vienna	2.28	2.28
Zurich	2.28	2.28

THE clinches Crest hotel deal for £300m

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

TRUSTHOUSE Forte, Britain's biggest hotelier, has bought most of the Crest hotel chain from Bass for £300 million cash, against widespread City expectations of a price nearer £400 million.

Bass, the Holiday Inn hotels to brewing group, has retained some prime Crest properties. The deal means the going rate for the sale of hotel bedrooms has virtually halved since September, as room occupancy rates have eased back and an increasing number of hotels have come up for sale.

The Crest sale has cleared the last big chain up for sale. But there are reports that among those with hotels still on the market, on an individual basis, are Trusthouse, Ladbroke, which now has the Hilton chain, and the fast-growing Mount Charlotte group.

The peak of the hotel sales market was reached when Mount Charlotte bought the Thistle Hotels chain for £645 million last September from Scottish & Newcastle Breweries. It paid between £135,000 and £145,000 a bedroom. It included some higher-price "trophy" hotels - Mount Charlotte subsequently sold the Gosforth Park Hotel, one of the best hotels in Newcastle upon Tyne, for £27.3 million, or about £160,000 a room.

The Trusthouse-Bass deal does not include eight prime Crest hotels which are to be converted to the Holiday Inn format. These have a com-

bined book value of £115 million. Since it bought Holiday Inn, Bass has been catapulted to being the world's largest hotels operator and, despite the Crest sale, stays at the top of the world league.

But the 43 Crest hotels sold account for a total of 4,753 rooms, which means the average price per bedroom was about £63,000.

It is virtually the same level as Mr John Jarvis, former head of Ladbroke's Hilton International hotel chain, is negotiating with Allied-Lyons for 41 Embassy hotels. This £202 million deal values the chain's 3,150 bedrooms at about £64,000 each. But this is not an entirely cash deal, a proportion being covered by loan notes.

The Embassy hotels are a mixture of city, town and country hotels. They were put up for sale because Allied-Lyons believed they did not fit with its core business concepts.

At one time there seemed to have been some prospect that Allied might have secured nearer £250 million for the Embassy chain, but occupancy rates in English hotels have been sliding. Last year, according to Horwath and Horwath, the leisure consultant, rates dropped from 1988's 60 per cent to 57 per cent, with London dropping to 69 per cent from 73 per cent the previous year.

There appears to have been little change in the market so far this year, with the three-star market, where Crest is

largely placed, possibly being the softest as a new generation of hotels have been picking up more trade.

Crest is expected to make "a positive contribution" to Trusthouse Forte profits in the current financial year, said Mr Rocco Forte, its chief executive.

"This is an excellent purchase for us," he said and added: "The Crest hotels we are buying are in very good condition and are well managed. Some excellent management and staff are joining us as a result of this acquisition."

In the year to end-September Crest hotels had net profits of £29.2 million before head-quarter overhead costs. The hotels are located in key towns and cities from the South-west to the North-east and there is comparatively small overlap with the Trusthouse Post House chain. No decision has been made on whether branding of the expanded chain will go to the Crest label or that of Post House.

There appear to be no monopoly worries for Trusthouse, which finished up with about 6 per cent of the hotels market, although it will have a considerably bigger slice of the middle market.

Mr Ian Prosser, Bass chairman, said the sale was "very satisfactory" for Bass, which will use the cash initially to cut its gearing to 57 per cent, giving it elbow room to develop its Holiday Inn chain.

Earlier Crest disposals realised £170 million and this year will be another £100 million coming in.

Allied-Lyons likely to sell brewing interests

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

ALLIED-LYONS, the food and drink group which is Britain's second biggest brewer, is believed to have decided in principle to sell its beer brewing interests.

It will not make a final decision or act until it knows the outcome of the brewery and pub deal between Grand Metropolitan and Elders IXL, which has been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Richard Martin, chief executive of Allied-Lyons, said: "To act prematurely would be folly." He said that the experience of GrandMet showed there was little to be gained and much to be lost from an early and public response to the changes in brewers' ties with public houses, imposed by the Government, especially because employees had to be considered.

"We are ready to act decisively when the time is right and when we can do so in the best interests of our shareholders. Until then it is business as usual," he added.

Allied, which once had Britain's top beer brand in Double Diamond, has market leadership in pub sales of bitter through its Tetley Bitter brand and also controls Skol lager in Britain and some other territories. But it also relies on Castlemeane and Swan lagers, licensed from the troubled Bond Brewing group.

Allied has made no attempt to buy Bond Brewing, though it has been anxious to buy permanent European rights



from the eventual owners of the Australian group.

In the year to March 3, Allied raised its pre-tax profit 12.5 per cent to £565 million on a 5 per cent increase in turnover to £4.5 billion. The results were better than expected and raised Allied shares by 14p to 544p.

Trading profits from continuing businesses increased 15.3 per cent to £657 million. The dividend is 13 per cent up at 16.95p, on fully diluted earnings up 9.1 per cent to 45.4p. The results include a £6 million financing charge but no trading results from the Beefeater gin and spirit interests bought for £330 million from Whitbread in February.

The beer and retailing division, which includes the group's public houses, increased trading profit by 14.3 per cent to £232 million. About a quarter of this is thought to come from the beer production business, indicating faster growth in profits from the pubs and restaurants.

The drive to increase food in the group's 6,500 pub outlets led to a 36 per cent increase in pub catering turnover. Nearly 700 major alterations or acquisitions were made during the year.

The wines and spirits division, now the group's largest, lifted trading profits 17.3 per cent to £318 million and J Lyons, the Tetley tea and food division, raised profits 11.3 per cent to £97 million.

Harvesting fruits of success

STEPHEN MARKESON



Pick of the crop: Lord Sainsbury announces a 20 per cent surge to £451m for Britain's biggest grocer yesterday

Sainsbury beats the forecasts at £451m

By Our City Staff

J SAINSBURY, the country's biggest grocer, produced better-than-expected trading profits of £420.7 million in the year to March 17, up from £352.3 million last time, confirming the resilience of the food retail market in the process.

Gains from the disposal of property sent pre-tax profits ahead 20 per cent to £451.4 million.

The company is paying a 4.35p final dividend, making a total increase from 5.05p to 6.10p. The figures come a day after Marks and Spencer surprised the stock market with its own bumper annual profits.

Sainsbury shares - against the market trend - edged ahead 3p to 260p.

Lord Sainsbury, the chairman, said the group's annual share of the British food and drink market had grown from 10.9 per cent to 11.6 per cent during the year.

Last year, it opened 22 supermarkets and a total of 1.34 million sq ft of selling space. The group's heavy investment programme on new stores sent capital expenditure ahead by £190 million to £693 million, but it meant that more than 41 per cent of its supermarket sales areas had been opened in the last five years.

Sainsbury is seeing increased benefits from the introduction of computerized checkout scanning, which tracks about 98 per cent of sales. Lord Sainsbury claimed it was two-and-a-half years ahead of its high street rivals.

As well as a strong performance from its core UK business, where operating margins exceeded 7 per cent for the first time, there were higher profits from its Homebase DIY operation despite difficult market conditions and from Shaw's, its US operation.

Homebase saw operating profits up 26 per cent on sales 11 per cent higher, while the American business increased profits by 36 per cent and sales by almost 15 per cent.

IoM to compensate 3,000 SIB clients

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE Manx government has agreed to compensate the 3,000 depositors who lost £42 million in the collapse of the Isle of Man Savings and Investment Bank (SIB) eight years ago.

The Hon Miles Walker, the chief minister, announced the ex-gratia payments in Tynwald, the island's parliament.

He promised a "scheme of modest proportions," but refused to give figures. He said investors would not recover all their money and smaller depositors would be given preference.

The decision comes days after the long-awaited publication of a Bank of England report into SIB's collapse.

This criticized the Isle of Man's financial institutions as "very seriously flawed" and pointed to "sloppy day-to-day administration."

Previously, the Manx government refused to take the blame for SIB's failure.

Yesterday Mr Walker said: "The report does not point out some marginal deficiency. It condemns the system of the day, root and branch."

"If we accept, as I believe

Hanson's £570m high point

By Colin Campbell

HANSON, a master of the takeover and disposal game whose bank borrowing limits would stretch to £17 billion, is poised for both acquisition and internal investment, according to Lord Hanson, the chairman.

He announced pre-tax profits of £570 million (£447 million) for the six months to end-March, on sales that rose from £3.32 billion to £3.62 billion. The interim dividend is 3p (2.5p).

"Hanson's long-term future remains very promising. We are confident of maintaining our growth and this record result bodes well for the future," he said.

The results include a first full six-month contribution from Consolidated Gold Fields, following its takeover.

The company, which is bidding for the remainder of US coal producer Peabody, says it remains confident of completing the Peabody deal, despite a rival but lower bid from the US mining group Amax.

Times, page 24

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Bloodletting stepped up at troubled Storehouse group

BhS to slash 900 management jobs

By Martin Waller

A RADICAL pruning of middle management at British Home Stores will mean the loss of 900 jobs. BhS is part of the troubled Storehouse retail combine, whose architect, Sir Terence Conran, announced his resignation earlier this month.

The move will also saddle the group with another £6 million in exceptional provisions in its figures for the year to end-March, due to be announced by the end of this month. The mounting provisions and the group's interest charges will now probably wipe out any trading profits, analysts believe, although gains from property sales will probably be about £11 million.

BhS was one of the constituent chains that Sir Terence welded together in the late 1980s to form Storehouse, along with Habitat, his initial retail business, Mothercare, Heals and the Richards

fashion business. Heals and Habitat have already seen some hefty pruning, resulting in provisions totalling almost £18 million to be taken in the current year.

There was immediate speculation on the timing of the latest blood-letting, coming so soon after Sir Terence's resignation. A spokesman for the group said he would have approved as he had long been concerned about the underperformance at BhS. But analysts were inclined to believe it reflected the hand of the new management rather than Sir Terence's more paternalistic regime.

The restructuring at BhS in particular bore the imprimatur of Mr David Dworkin, chairman and chief executive since the end of last November and known for his keenness to cut out the smothering layers of middle management, said one observer. "I think that people are getting incredibly fed up with exceptional costs coming through each

year. But the more of this restructuring the better - these are the sort of decisions that weren't being taken by the previous management."

Mr Dworkin himself described BhS as "too bureaucratic and top-heavy" and this has got in the way of service to our customers. He said current trading had been "enormously encouraging" with sales 20 per cent ahead on average over the past year.

BhS is stressing that none of the job losses involve the sales staff. Three hundred jobs will go among the 800 people at its three head offices, from intermediate layers of management to those in various specialized departments such as maintenance, which are being shut down. Another 600 jobs will go from the 138 stores - mainly those of assistant store managers and department heads and their deputies.

Comment, page 25

LUI in jeopardy as insurers refuse to back rescue plan

By Neil Bennett

THE rescue package for London United Investments, the suspended insurance group, has been put in doubt by the refusal of Britain's leading composite insurers to contribute up to two-thirds of the £120 million needed.

Mr Stuart Tarrant, the finance director of Sedgwick Group, the broker which is leading the rescue attempt, said he was less than optimistic about chances for the plan's success. He said there was "still a long way to go" before it reached its target of £120 million.

Mr Tarrant said the rescue package was probably the last hope of saving LUI. Sedgwick

and other British and US brokers have offered to put up £40 million of the money, but have asked composites, such as Prudential and Sun Alliance, to supply the rest. The money is needed to prop up the reserves of six of LUI's subsidiaries, which have been hit by an increasing level of claims from old US liability policies.

The brokers are trying to convince the composites that many of LUI's US clients would be covered under the Policyholders' Protection Act if the group is declared bankrupt.

They would thus have their claims met by a levy on the

insurers once LUI's reserves were exhausted. The composites have so far refused to accept this argument. They are also unwilling to subscribe to a rescue in case claims frequency continues to increase and more money is needed. However, negotiations are continuing.

Last month, LUI said Tillinghast, its consulting actuary, had found a £75 million to £100 million shortfall in the six subsidiaries. Tillinghast will send its final report to the Department of Trade soon.

Mr David Rowland, Sedgwick's chairman, said his company's shares slid 14p to 25p yesterday when he

gave warning there were "no clear signs of any upturn" in the insurance industry.

His words were coupled with another flat set of figures from Britain's largest insurance broker. Pre-tax profits for the first three months were up 1.7 per cent to £42.5 million.

Earnings per share were unchanged at 6.4p, despite a 10 per cent rise in revenue to £196 million.

The group was hit by an unexpected £1.9 million write-off on two errors and omissions policies it had taken out in 1979 and 1983, which the insurers have been unable to pay. The group will pay a dividend at the half-year.

Vaux set to buy more pubs

By Jeremy Andrews

THE chairman and managing director of Vaux Breweries, Mr Paul Nicholson, confirmed that the group planned to buy more public houses cast off by the big five brewers, having spent £11 million on the purchase of 55 public houses so far this year.

Mr Nicholson was commenting following publication of Vaux's figures for the 24 weeks to March 17, which showed pre-tax profits up 19 per cent at £14.1 million on sales 11 per cent ahead at £111 million. The interim dividend is raised to 2.98p.

Despite a two-point fall in the tax charge to 26 per cent due to Vaux's heavy capital spending, earnings per share, up 16 per cent at 8.16p, grew more slowly than profits because of the £36 million share placing in December.

The underlying growth in earnings was only 10 per cent as profits from associates had been flattened by a £719,000 gain from the sale of 77 Times, which had been jointly owned by all the independent television companies. Vaux has a 19 per cent stake in Tyne Tees Television.

The largest contribution to the results came from its Swallow Hotels subsidiary, where trading profits rose by 13 per cent to £6.14 million.

Metro Radio up 35%



Music to his ears: Metro's Neil Robinson contemplates a good year ahead

METRO Radio Group, the independent radio stations group based in Newcastle, turned in a 35.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £937,000 in the half year to end-March (Philip Pangalos writes).

The results benefited from an 18.5 per cent improvement in advertising revenue, with local advertising growing by

24.2 per cent. Turnover was ahead by 25.3 per cent to £3.87 million. Earnings per share rose by 28.2 per cent to 6.41p, while the interim dividend is raised to 1.5p (1.25p). The shares advanced by 11p to 147p.

Mr Neil Robinson, the managing director, said the second half has started well with April's advertising rev-

enue more than 50 per cent higher than last year.

Interest receipts more than doubled to £212,000 and there was an extraordinary credit of £100,000 from the sale of the company's shareholding in Broadcast Marketing Services.

Recent figures showed that Metro Radio has a 47 per cent share of all radio listening in its transmission area.

Sky TV's losses hit News Corp results

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

CONTINUING losses from Sky Television in the third quarter contributed to a 43 per cent fall in The News Corporation's pre-tax profits to Aus\$231 million (£110 million) in the nine months to end-March.

Group turnover of the Sydney-based international media group, of which Mr Rupert Murdoch is chief executive, rose by 14 per cent to Aus\$6.3 billion. Trading profit increased by 1.3 per cent to Aus\$930 million.

This included a 46 per cent rise to Aus\$541 million in the United States and Aus\$311 million (up 8 per cent) from Australia and the Pacific basin.

But trading profits from the UK interests, which include the Sky satellite broadcasting system for seven months, as well as The Times, Sunday Times, News of the World, Today and The Sun, dropped from Aus\$259 million to Aus\$178 million.

Total losses from Sky Television totalled Aus\$179 million, implying that losses in the first three months of 1990 were at the same rate as the last four months of 1989.

Sky Television losses are now falling, the company said, with the accelerated installation of receiving dishes. There are now 1.4 million viewing households.

Net interest costs rose from Aus\$593 million to Aus\$697 million and the contribution from associates turned from a profit of Aus\$56.5 million to a loss of Aus\$28.6 million.

The company said that, had it not been for the investment in Sky and the effect of the pilots' dispute on Ansett, its airline associate, profits would have been higher than last year's record, despite higher borrowing and worsening advertising conditions.

Net profit after tax and minority interests dropped by 53 per cent to Aus\$147 million and there were net extraordinary losses of Aus\$26 million for the nine months, against extraordinary profits of Aus\$155 million a year ago. Shares in News International, the UK subsidiary which pays the same dividend as The News Corporation, fell 4p to 274p.

COMMENT

BhS puts a decisive end to benign paternalism

THE astonishing aspect of the announcement that BhS is cutting 900 management and support jobs from its retail business is that only three out of every five people employed in BhS stores are engaged in selling. Since the beginning of the year, BhS has been trying to find out not only what the other 40 per cent do, but whether they need to do it. The result is that 600 faces are going to disappear from the stores, but there will be just as many hands to serve the customers.

It does appear that many of the people being removed from the store network spent their time collecting and processing information — form-filling, in other words. Not only did this divert the time of those whose job it was to sell, but also it required another army of people at head office to read, store, process, pass on or memorize the information needlessly gathered. By taking 600 out of the stores, another 300 can be allowed to go at head office.

The bureaucracy infecting BhS appears to rival the set-up which is more normally, but probably now unfairly, associated with the Civil Service, but could well be the pattern elsewhere in the retail sector. The scandal is that, more than three years after the merger which created Storehouse, the situation remained uncorrected.

Sir Terence Conran, who stepped out of the Storehouse chair less than two weeks ago, was aware that there was so much bureaucracy there that he could not get done the things he wanted. Like a weak minister faced with a determined ministry, he was beaten by "the system," a system which apparently existed almost for its own benefit rather than to serve customers or shareholders.

It took the arrival of David Dworkin, in turn brought in by Michael Julien, the Storehouse chief executive, to come to grips with the scale of the problem, which had become so severe it could be cured only by drastic surgery.

The end of the era of benign paternalism, which has endured for more than 60 years, will save BhS more than £10 million a year, possibly as much as £15 million, but more importantly focus the stores attention on the shopper rather than on the requirements of head office.

Woolworths was put through the same sort of wringer when it was acquired by Kingfisher, but other store groups, such as Marks and Spencer with its army of executives in Baker Street, will be watching with interest to see just how slim the centre can become before it snaps under the strain.

All calls from Olliff on hold

JUST when we think we've seen it all, somebody thinks of a new trick to entertain the takeover circus. The latest twist to the long-running takeover soap starring Molins, the cigarette machinery maker, springs from the fertile minds at Olliff & Partners, a research-based stockbroking partnership which set up in the shadow of Big Bang and lived to tell the tale.

Olliff acts for Leucadia National Corporation, which has put a bid of 252p a share down on the table. Leucadia already holds 33 per cent of Molins, which it picked up from the previous bidder, Sir Ron Brierley's IEP Securities, and is keen to pick up the remainder. It has until close of business today to decide whether to increase the offer, and until yesterday morning a revised 275p offer looked almost a foregone conclusion.

Leucadia has decided, however, to force the pace. Instead of the expected take-it-or-leave-it increase, it says it will increase the bid only if it can manage to acquire more shares by noon today. How many more? At what price? Such

decisions are not for the ears of the market, but at the "sole discretion" of the bidder. Last night Olliff was canvassing shareholders for their shares, offering, according to Molins, prices of up to 275p. If Leucadia decides it has bagged enough shares, obviously it will have to lift its bid to the highest price it paid. If not, all bets are off, the bid will fail, the share price will fall and Leucadia will presumably look for a buyer for its stake.

The decision of the Takeover Panel to allow the Olliff initiative is somewhat curious, for it does contrast with the crackdown on conditional acceptances. If such wheezes are to be allowed at all, both the price on offer and the level of acceptance required should be spelled out. Alternatively, once any shareholder is offered, even conditionally, a price higher than the current bid price, the offer should be thrown open to all. Otherwise the market is rigged and riddled with unintentional insiders. Shareholders canvassed by Olliff should refuse to take the call.

David Brewerton

The Guinness Trial

Board 'never authorized fees'

THE former company secretary of Guinness claimed the board had never authorized success fees in connection with the group's £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers, a court heard yesterday.

Mr John Chadwick, QC, prosecuting, asked Mr Alan Scrine if there had been "authorization of any payments of any success fees or indemnities in connection with the acquisition." Mr Scrine replied: "No sir."

Mr Scrine also confirmed that the board had never approved a payment of £5.2 million to Tom Ward, the Guinness director and Ameri-

can lawyer, said to have played a key role in the bid.

Mr Scrine also told the court that unofficial meetings of Guinness directors after a government inquiry was launched into the takeover caused "acrimony and tension."

New non-executive directors of the company, appointed after the 1986 bid, were seen as being divisive by meeting outside the company.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, defending the former Guinness chief Ernest Saunders, asked if there was a body comprising the new non-executive directors appointed

after the takeover. Mr Scrine replied: "There was no special entity, no."

And he said in December 1986 and early January 1987 he did not know the new directors were holding meetings, or that they were tagged "the back the chairman committee."

It is alleged that on January 4 Mr Olivier Roux, the former Guinness finance director, wrote a letter to Guinness lawyers setting out improper transactions linked to the bid and implicating Mr Saunders.

And it is claimed Price Waterhouse, the company auditor, raised "areas of con-

cern" with Mr Saunders in November, but he failed to explain them.

Mr Scrine agreed that if anyone had a worry about the running of the company the appropriate way to raise it was through the president or chairman, or, ultimately, by tabling it before the full board.

Mr Saunders, aged 54; Gerald Ronson, Heron Corporation chief, aged 50; Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, aged 44; and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, aged 74, variously deny 24 charges including theft, false accounting, and Companies Act breaches.

The trial continues today.

"I am delighted to report a year of substantial progress for Allied-Lyons"

Derick Holdenhorn
(Extracts from the Chairman's Statement)

Pre-Tax Profit		Earnings per Share		Dividend per Share	
1989/90	1988/89	1989/90	1988/89	1989/90	1988/89
£565m	£502m	47.7p	43.7p	16.95p	15.00p
Up 12.5%		Up 9.1%		Up 13.0%	

52 weeks to 3 March 1990.

"These results reflect good performance across the whole group.

The acquisition of the Whitbread Spirits business increased both our brand strength and our international status. Similarly Dunkin' Donuts Inc brought into the group a world number one which complements our existing business and offers considerable potential both in the United States and worldwide.

Our well balanced spread of food, drink and hospitality businesses, our growing international status and our outstanding brand strength add up to a powerful and resilient group and we are confident of further progress."

ALLIED-LYONS

Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Another fine mess . . .

THE Prince of Wales was given a whispered ticking-off after he photographed a £10 note during his four-day tour of Hungary last week — and he could now be liable to a fine of up to £25. The notes had been given to each of the workers in the Ganz-Husket factory in Budapest, a subsidiary of Leeds-based engineer Telfos, in celebration of the Royal tour — "so that they could go out that night and treat themselves," a spokesman says. But the works foreman, an entrepreneurial gentleman by the name of Berecz, had other ideas. He presented his to Prince Charles who, spontaneously, signed it as requested. "You're not supposed to do that," an aide then confided, but it was too late — the offending note had vanished back into a Hungarian pocket. Later attempts by Husket chief executive Eddie Duke to buy it back, with the bidding going as high as £95, fell on fallow ground. The well-informed Royal aide was clearly familiar with The Currency and Banknote Act 1928, which stipulates that "if any person prints or stamps or by any like means impresses on any bank note any words, letters or figures he shall, in respect of each offence, be liable on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding £1." A bemused Bank of England source informs me that that penalty has since been increased to £25 but adds: "It is technically an offence, but we are unlikely to be pursuing the matter."

Oil clique

FEMALE colleagues of the men who dominate the oil industry are banding together to make themselves more powerful professionally. They are launching a women's club within the oil industry, the brainchild of Angela Hay, aged 32, an oil futures broker with the French firm Suoden, and Caroline Lewis, aged 43, an oil consultant. "It's such a male industry but there are also some very good and powerful women, and we want to start networking," says Hay. "Successful women in the industry have to be that much better than the men, by definition, but they are also fairly isolated. It's very difficult for a woman to go along to the pub after work and strike up a chummy relationship with men. It's just not the same." Men were, she added, incredibly chauvinistic. "When one asks another what a certain man is like, you don't hear them say, 'He doesn't wear very nice ties.' The club's first meeting will be a

luncheon for 25 or so — including four Americans who want to launch a sister club in New York — at the fashionable Soho restaurant L'Escargot, with subsequent meetings every two or three months. Men will be invited as guests or speakers. "They can be honorary girls," says Hay. And the male reaction thus far? "They think it's all a bit of a joke — they don't realize just how serious we are."

GRAFFITI outside a Cambridge college: "The man who boasts about how clever he is wouldn't if he was."

Read letter day

DESPITE the worsening economic climate — or perhaps because of it — Stephen Lewis, one-time director of economic research at Phillips & Drew, has had a 92 per cent renewal rate for Fifth Column, his weekly newsletter which examines the international bond and currency markets and, more recently, equities. A delighted Lewis, who still works as a consultant for P&D two or three days a week, and now has 70 subscribers prepared to pay £995 a year, attributes his success to "the quality of the product." He adds: "We published the first one in February last year, but the first four editions were free, so we've only just been able to assess the renewal rate." As for his expansion into equities, he explains: "A lot of subscribers want to be able to take a general strategic view and so I decided to break the habit of a life time." Equities were, he adds, comparatively easy. "It's like



2012

Warner Bros.
up 10¢ to 15¢

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

LONDON FINANCIAL ELITE

RECEIVED
SCHEIDT

Foreign TV predators ready to snap up franchise victors

By Melinda Wittstock

ALL 16 ITV television contractors to emerge from the next franchise round in 1992 will be immediately vulnerable to hostile takeovers, according to City broadcasting analysts and industry sources.

This follows the Government's refusal to legislate a moratorium on takeovers for the new franchise-holders. It had been expected that a one- or two-year moratorium would be sought in the Broadcasting Bill.

If expected attempts to amend the Bill to allow for a moratorium fail during its second reading in the House of Lords next month, it is believed most ITV companies will end up foreign-owned or controlled just months after winning highly sought-after franchises.

Mr Richard Dunn, the managing director of Thames Television, said: "With no moratorium in place, there is a high probability that each and every successful Channel 3 applicant will be taken over by large European media companies." Non-EC investors are limited to stakes of up to 20 per cent, while EC companies can own 100 per cent.

"Instead of having to go through the rather arcane process of bidding for a franchise through the competitive tender, most potential bidders will now wait and buy the winners when they are at their



Dunn: vulnerable winners most vulnerable, with little, if any, interference," he said.

More than 30 European media giants have made clear their plans to expand into British independent television. And they each have, in their own right, bigger market capitalization than the £2 billion capitalization of all ITV companies. City analysts expect a spate of bids, counter-bids, mergers and agreed deals the week the outcome of the franchise tender is announced.

Mr Chris Akers, an analyst with Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, said: "It is likely to be complete chaos. At 9am the winners will be announced, within minutes the share prices will be up 10 to 20 per cent and within hours the takeover battles will begin."

He added: "Within 18 months, the majority will be

in French, German, Spanish or Italian hands."

The only companies that will be prevented by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) — the regulatory body which replaces the IBA with the Bill's Royal Assent in July — from taking over a successful applicant will be those who tried but failed to win a franchise.

The ITC could not prevent a company that avoided the competitive tender from taking over a successful applicant, unless the bidder failed to convince the ITC that it could live up to the obligations agreed at the tender stage, such as the provision of local and regional programming.

Mr David Mellor, Home Office Minister responsible for broadcasting, has said the ITC would be left to establish its own rules and guidelines regarding mergers and takeovers.

Mr Dunn said: "How could the ITC decide whether or not a bidder would run a franchise better than the winner of that franchise if it has only been transmitting for a week?"

Mr John Sanderson, an analyst with County NatWest, said European players are still likely to consider taking strategic stakes on the cheap in what they perceive to be likely winners before the franchise round. But although the Europeans will no doubt play a large role in post-tender take-

overs, he said British companies, such as Hanson, Mr Richard Branson's private Virgin and Carlton Communications, will also figure largely.

The number of franchises could also shrink from 16 to 8, as each franchise is allowed to bid for another non-neighbouring franchise. The biggest franchises will be prevented from bidding for each other.

Mr Christopher Bland, the chief executive of LWT, said heightened takeover activity immediately after the franchise round is inevitable. "We will only be taken over if we deserve to be. We'll make sure we don't deserve to be. But if there is a generous bid by a reputable company, it will be the responsibility of the board to recommend it."

Likely EC bidders include: Bertelsmann, the German media company; Signor Silvio Berlusconi, the European media baron who owns television stations in Italy, West Germany, France, Spain and Yugoslavia; CLT, which owns Radio Luxembourg and a stake in satellite channel RTL Plus; Hachette, Havas and Canal Plus of France; and Axel Springer, the West German newspaper group.

CLT is understood to have approached Thames with an interest in buying the 56.5 per cent stake put up for sale in March by Thorn EMI and BET.

Alexanders' rise



PRE-TAX profits at Alexanders Holdings, the Scottish based group of Ford motor dealerships, which is chaired by Mrs Aleksandra Clayton (above), improved from £673,000 to £707,000 in the

six months to end-March, on turnover ahead by 24.6 per cent to £43.6 million. Earnings per share climbed from 1.204p to 1.264p. Once again, there is no interim dividend. The shares were unchanged at 20p.

Ridley assures Japanese over UK-built cars

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

MR NICHOLAS Ridley, the Trade Secretary, has assured Tokyo that Japanese cars produced in Britain after 1992 will count as European-made.

He has also told the Japanese that despite the "tittle-tattle" they may read in newspapers, Mrs Thatcher was in no danger of tumbling.

Speaking to British reporters at the end of a five-day trip to Japan, he said the Japanese "seem to be worried that Mrs Thatcher may not win the next election. These myths I have been able to completely discount."

Japan accounts for 4 per cent of foreign investment in Britain and Mr Ridley said he had been given the feeling from chats during his visit that "any difficulty" faced by the present British government could affect the way Japan thinks about Britain as a home for its investments.

Britain, home to several Japanese car plants, has been bickering with hardliners such as France, which want EC import quotas on Japanese cars for a dozen years after 1992 and for transplants — cars made in Japanese factories in the EC — to be included in the monitoring.

Mr Ridley said: "There can be no question of any goods manufactured within the

Community not being counted as European-made. That is in the Treaty of Rome. The majority of EC states are liberal towards car imports and they are not going to move to a more liberal position."

He added that any transitional period of import quotas "should be as brief as possible — no years if possible."

During a recent visit to Tokyo, Mr Frans Andriessen, the EC's External Trade Relations Commissioner, found the Japanese less than enthusiastic about the EC plan for a transitional period, and very chilly towards his proviso that for such an interim period "to be meaningful, it has to take into account transplants in the Community."

But Tokyo is believed to be willing voluntarily to restrain its car exports, as it does to the US. Convinced that it holds the stronger cards, the Japanese government is not ready to have transplants included in any such monitoring.

Having shown that Britain was willing to go into bat for Japan, Mr Ridley asked in return for greater access in Japan for British investors. "I am really quite worried about how difficult it is for the British to invest in Japan and we'll have to do something about that."

Warner Howard up 10% to £4.6m

By Philip Pangalos

WARNER Howard Group, the commercial laundry systems and warm air hand-dryers supplier, announced pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent to £4.67 million in the year to end-February.

Turnover climbed by 9 per cent to £16.3 million. Laundry equipment, which accounted for 63 per cent of turnover, grew by 5 per cent, while the warm air dryers business grew by 15 per cent.

Earnings per share rose from 12.55p to 13.51p. The final dividend is improved to 2.94p (2.45p), making 4.5p (3.75p) for the year. Rental

contracts are linked to the RPI for six years and all costs are written off in the first year. About 70 per cent of customers renew their contracts on expiry.

Mr Ernie Hazell, managing director, said the group had reached agreement to form a joint venture company with World Dryer Corporation of America to exploit the potential of World's warm air hand-dryers throughout Europe. The management of this new business will be undertaken by Warner Howard.

The shares were unchanged at 147p.

Changes at Hazlewood

By Our City Staff



Jones: refocusing the group

HAZLEWOOD Foods, the acquisitive food manufacturer busy restructuring its operations, has strengthened its management team. It has appointed a new finance director to enable Mr Dennis Jones, a founding director, to concentrate on his role as corporate development director.

The company, which has recently fallen from City favour after turning in the sixth best performance on the stock exchange in the 1980s, is currently negotiating to dispose of one or two of its major divisions.

"We're reviewing all our operations to focus the business on a narrower range of

product," said Mr Jones, who added that Hazlewood will make a major disposal announcement with the group's preliminary results on June 12.

Mr John Simons, the company secretary, takes over as finance director. Mr Kevin Higginson, the group accountant, becomes company secretary. The company has also appointed two new directors: Mr David Appleyard, a manager in the fresh foods division, and Mr Tom van Gorp, a director of Hazlewood International BV.

Hazlewood also announced the £3 million disposal of Kanes Food Products Ltd to Dr John Randall, a director.

Lee Cooper turns the corner with a reduced loss of £1.2m

By Our City Staff

VIVAT Holdings, the ailing Lee Cooper jeans and casual-wear company, is on the road to recovery following a major restructuring which has helped it reduce a disastrous £12.7 million pre-tax loss in 1988 to a 1989 loss of just £1.2 million.

Trading became profitable again in the second half of the year as forecast by Vivat when it reported interim losses of £1.32 million for the six months to end-June, 1989.

The loss per share was decreased from 30p to 2.8p, and there is still no dividend. Turnover fell from £123.7 million to £108.5 million.

Mr Michael Cooper, the chairman, said all divisions of the group are now "trading satisfactorily" following the restructuring, which involved the disposal of its loss-making United Kingdom retailing operations — Jean Jeannie, Jean Machine, Copyright and FU's — to Chelsea Man last November.

He forecast a profit for the year and said dividend payments would resume once the group is firmly back in the black. "After the plateau years of the mid-1980s and the two years required to restructure the group, it is now possible to

take a more optimistic view of its prospects for the final decade of the century," said Mr Cooper, who plans further growth throughout Europe, including the East.

Vivat said the Lee Cooper division, which accounts for 70 per cent of its sales, continues to hold "brand leadership" in France and Belgium, while its international licensing division, which distributes the Lee Cooper brand in Eastern Europe, Australasia, North Africa, the Middle East and Latin America enjoyed a profitable year. Vivat shares were up 1p to 54p.

Let's face it - trying to explain the virtues of the company

pension scheme to younger employees isn't the easiest job

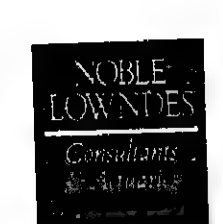
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STRAIGHT ANSWERS TO COMPLICATED QUESTIONS

W O R K I N G T H R O U G H O U T T H E W O R L D

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your right share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your daily dividend figure. If it matches the prize money stated on the back of your card, claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend
1	Electronics	Electronics	100	100
2	South West	South West	100	100
3	Kierulff Bolton	Banking/Discount	100	100
4	THORN EMI (as)	Electronics	100	100
5	Br Telecom (as)	Electronics	100	100
6	Mecca	Leisure	100	100
7	Scott & New (as)	Breweries	100	100
8	Church	Drugs/Stores	100	100
9	Br Vita	Industrials A-D	100	100
10	Ladbrokes (as)	Hotels/Caterers	100	100
11	Br Dredging	Building/Roads	100	100
12	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	100	100
13	Wellcome (as)	Industrials L-R	100	100
14	NFC	Transport	100	100
15	Norcor	Industrials L-R	100	100
16	Allied Irish	Banking/Discount	100	100
17	Sainsbury J (as)	Food	100	100
18	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	100	100
19	Tibbet & Britten	Transport	100	100
20	Strong & Fisher	Shoes/Leather	100	100
21	Mowlem (John)	Building/Roads	100	100
22	Beag	Industrials A-D	100	100
23	Utd Recruits (as)	Food	100	100
24	Vaux Group	Breweries	100	100
25	Br Petroleum (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
26	Ele Data Process	Electronics	100	100
27	Greene King	Breweries	100	100
28	ECM	Electronics	100	100
29	Honda Motor	Industrials L-R	100	100
30	Burton (as)	Drugs/Stores	100	100
31	Produceco Alexander	Industrials L-R	100	100
32	Banks (Sidney C)	Food	100	100
33	Auto Sec	Electronics	100	100
34	Yule Carr	Chemicals/Plas	100	100
35	NMWC Comp	Electronics	100	100
36	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building/Roads	100	100
37	Lincet	Electronics	100	100
38	Boyard	Industrials L-R	100	100
39	Wesley	Industrials S-Z	100	100
40	Whitbread 'A' (as)	Breweries	100	100
41	Sinclair (Wm)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
42	Trans Perkins	Building/Roads	100	100
43	Mitel	Electronics	100	100
44	Ryl Bk Scot (as)	Banking/Discount	100	100
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total				

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was yesterday shared by two winners, Mr Bertram Duffield of East Twickenham, Middlesex, and Mrs W.L. Wicken, of Chichester in West Sussex, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Gross
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Gross
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Gross
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Gross
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

UNDATED

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Gross
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Gross
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

High	Low	Share	Price	Change	%	Gross
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Caution returns

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 14. Dealings end May 25. Contango day May 29. Settlement day June 4. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 25)

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

BREWERIES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

BUILDING, ROADS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCE, LAND

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

FOODS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

HOTELS, CATERERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

DRAPERY, STORES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICALS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

E-K

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

L-R

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

S-Z

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

INSURANCE

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

LEISURE

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

MINING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

PROPERTY

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

SHOES, LEATHER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

TEXTILES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

TOBACCOS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

TRANSPORT

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

OILS, GAS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

INSURANCE

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

LEISURE

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

MINING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

PROPERTY

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

SHOES, LEATHER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

SECRETARIAL

PA who battled to prove herself

Getting to a cream leather settee across the office, Louise Slade-Betts invites me to sit down. She places herself on a matching chair, and while I collapse with all the aplomb of a sack of potatoes, she manages to remain tidier, straighter and higher. You can tell which of us has been to department classes.

I have come to discover Miss Slade-Betts's trade secret: how she rose from being a £13-a-week typist at Reuters news agency to become personal assistant to Harry Goodman, chairman of the International Leisure Group, whose flagship is the burgeoning airline Air Europe. From my seated position, I am surprised by the size of the office.

"Oh, this isn't mine," she says. "I work in the cubbyhole outside." Miss Slade-Betts is aged 34 and has been Mr Goodman's right-hand woman for 7½ years. She lists some unlikely stepping stones on the route to career success, such as playing the piano, leaving private school aged 15 with no qualifications, and meeting Morecambe and Wise in a casino.

"I was a rebel at school, but when my father sent me to secretarial college I became the star pupil with 80 words per minute typing after three months.

From school rebel to leading personal assistant — one of Britain's top PAs explains her success and the myriad demands of her job to Alan Hamilton

I used to play the piano, and it gave me very supple fingers. But the real reason was that I could see a goal at the end of my course — money."

She stayed with her first job at the news agency, secured through Brook Street Bureau, for nine months, but says it was "too ordinary". She moved to Max Factor, but it was too woman-dominated. So she moved to BMW; she has, she admits, always gone for names.

"I got on at BMW because I carried the top secretary her job and the power it carried. And I eventually got her job. Because my father and brother have their own building business, and work so

hard at it, I have always been brought up to strive. Leaving school with no 'O' levels was another incentive to prove myself."

A spell as secretary to the managing director of Ladbroke's casinos moved her in the direction of public relations, dealing with important clients and guests.

"I had some of the social skills already, which came from going to a school where they taught elocution, deportment, and even how to lay a dinner table. It helped my confidence."

What is surprising about her present job is that she hardly ever travels with her globe-trotting boss. "My function is to hold the fort when he's not here. But wherever he is in the world, he is constantly on the phone. It is my job to filter all the letters and the messages and the people that say they must talk to him urgently, and decide which ones he really needs to know about. It means that you have to get to know your boss well, and learn what he regards as important."

When the boss is in town, Miss Slade-Betts, tipped off by his chauffeur, is always in the office 15 minutes before him, usually at 7.45. She never goes to lunch, and stays as late in the day as necessary, often until 7.30. She organizes fresh flowers for his



Personal assistant Louise Slade-Betts: "You have to put the boss first. You have to be prepared to be called out at any time"

office and fresh fruit for his lunch, as well as his high-powered international meetings.

"However long his day, it is up to me to make it as easy and comfortable as possible for him. I do not expect him to ask me what sort of a weekend I have had; I'm here to serve him. You have to put the boss first. You have to be prepared to be called out at any time, although that doesn't happen too often. And you have to be prepared to cancel your holidays

at short notice if something comes up."

"The attraction is that no two days are ever the same. Harry Goodman is unpredictable, but exciting, a bit like the airline industry. The day I get bored is the day I'll leave."

Yes, but what is the secret of organizing a boss so that he scarcely notices? "I watched, I looked and I learned. There is no point in going in head-first and trying to tell him what he should

do with his day. I have to be subtle about it, although I am sure there are days when I get on his nerves."

Miss Slade-Betts says a secretary who seeks advancement needs to watch for every career opportunity, and take it. And she must always have confidence in herself.

What are the drawbacks? For the first time in half an hour, she has to stop and think. "Sometimes, at the end of a hard week, I just think it would be nice to have

a normal life in a normal job, so that I could plan my social life. But I suppose the only real drawback is being based out here. I really miss the buzz of London."

I look out of the window and realize that her office is in the middle of an industrial estate at the back of Gatwick airport. To do this I have to struggle out of the settee, thrashing limbs in several directions. Miss Slade-Betts, needless to say, beats me on points for both time and style.

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In this varied role your duties will include helping the Holiday Which? team with the organisation and filing of information and the photocopying, scanning and magazine production assistance and general help with the department's large output of reports and books.

All we ask is that you have previous word processing and typing experience (min 50 wpm), ability to work on your own initiative and that you enjoy working in a pleasant environment. Familiarity with computers, a working knowledge of Lotus spreadsheet packages and a full clean driving licence would be a distinct advantage.

Benefits include 28 days annual holiday, pension scheme, free life insurance and interest free season ticket loan.

To apply, please send full CV to the Personnel Officer, Consumers' Association, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DQ.

Which?

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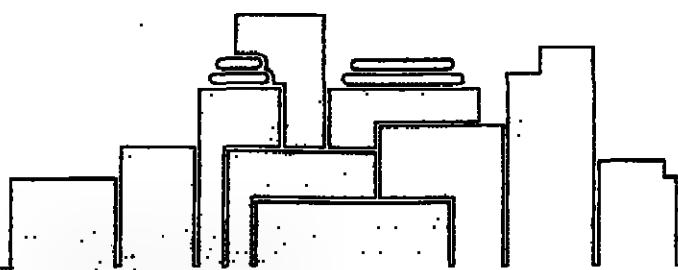
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THE HEALEY & BAKER VIEW



New openings in Europe. Which way will the real estate market go?

With barriers of all kinds being removed throughout Europe, the real estate market is already seeing a dramatic increase in international activity.

At its simplest, the creation of the single European market should enable international players to purchase, let and sell real estate in any EEC country according to the same rules.

The Healey & Baker view, however, is that the situation is considerably more complicated.

1992 will not instantly bring common rules. Any serious occupier or investor should be working closely with real estate consultants who have both impeccable local knowledge and a truly international perspective.

In the words of James Hollington of Healey & Baker:

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To find out more, contact James Hollington at 29 St George Street, Hanover Square, London W1A 3BG or by telephone on 071 629 9292. The Healey & Baker view could dramatically change the way you look at real estate.

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

The year for optimism

In these days of uncertainty in the British property market, the chartered surveyor Weatherall Green & Smith offers an optimistic, if cautious, view in its newly published *Property 1990* report. Aware of the market's difficulties now and possibly for some time, the firm nevertheless believes that the next 12 months could offer opportunities, if selected with care, for investors in a position to build up a portfolio.

Weatherall Green & Smith is showing its confidence by opening more regional offices during the year in Bristol and Manchester to take advantage of the opportunities it sees in these two cities.

David York, senior partner, says in the report: "The UK is the most favoured European country for US and Japanese investment in commerce and industry. London is one of the world's three major financial centres. It will improve its position within the single European market and has the office capacity to accommodate that growth."

He emphasizes that it has never been more important than now to "avoid talking ourselves into a decline". He says: "It is easy for commentators, with hindsight, to give their views on how the market arrived where it is today. Those who talk of a flat year followed by slow growth are taking a safe, simplistic view. There is much more to it than that."

The report predicts that, as world economic growth is set to continue, providing a market for British goods, the pattern of 1975 and 1980 when recession set in is unlikely to be repeated. Growth

One firm of surveyors predicts that the market could now offer the opportunity for careful investment

will prompt further investment, adding stimulus to the home economy, and inevitably lead to inflation, fueling rents and capital values. It suggests therefore that investors now sitting on the sidelines waiting for bargains will be disappointed. "This is an ideal time to return to the market by taking advantage of current yields to assemble portfolios," it says.

Weatherall Green & Smith also believes overseas investment in Britain, which has grown from £200 million in 1986 to more than £3 billion in 1989, will continue.

Although some of the domestic institutions have been net disinvestors, the Japanese and Scandinavians have been active, and

there is likely to be a further large influx of Japanese investment into Britain and Europe, particularly Paris, Frankfurt and Madrid. In the past two years the Japanese are estimated to have invested £1.6 billion in the British market, predominantly in large lot sizes in the City of London.

At the same time an analysis of the 200 largest American pension funds shows that \$9.8 billion (£5.8 million) may be available for overseas real estate investment.

In the offices sector, the firm acknowledges that the central London office market is moving slowly, and that only top-quality space is letting well. It says the effect of rating reform will not be

clear until late this year but the additional cost may further dampen demand. In the long term, however, additional demand is likely to come from the single European market.

The strengths of different areas in the market are shown by the relative levels of vacancy - 3 per cent in the West End, 10 per cent in the City, and 40 per cent in the Isle of Dogs, Docklands. The problems of transport and infrastructure in Docklands are well known, but Weatherall Green & Smith believes they remain a serious cause for concern throughout central London.

The report says: "Modernization of transport systems in mainland Europe have moved

ahead much faster than in the UK, and the main arteries feeding London are rapidly becoming blocked. If access to the capital becomes too difficult there is a real danger that international tenants will look towards other European capitals as their favoured location." The advantages of London, notably the experience afforded by the insurance and financial market, could, it says, be outweighed by the disadvantages of poor transport communications.

For regional offices, the growing number of companies wishing to move from central London will ensure that the market in the Home Counties and main provincial towns will remain strong and show further rental growth in the medium term, provided some of the projected schemes are deferred, the report argues.



Vacancies running at 40 per cent: Isle of Dogs in Docklands



FIFTY-FIFTY purchase schemes for residential property have recently become popular in London Docklands and elsewhere as a means of achieving sales. The developer Skillion has announced what it believes is the first 50-50 commercial scheme, for half the 40,000 sq ft at Baltic Quay at South Dock in the Surrey Docks. The commercial space is the first phase of Skillion's 433 million residential, commercial and marina development to come on to the market. The 20,000 sq ft of commercial space in the 50-50 scheme is available in units from 1,000 sq ft upwards and has been designed with total flexibility. The units

constitute a basic "box" and prices start from £175 a square foot on 125-year leases, but Skillion offers a complete fitting-out package. Under the 50-50 scheme, the balance of 50 per cent must be repaid within five years at half the original purchase price or half the then open market value, whichever is greater.

Ric Hawley, Skillion's chairman, believes the pricing for the scheme, and for the residential units, which will be launched later this week, gives it the edge over rival Docklands developments. "We have the infrastructure in place, and the marina is the only 24-hour-a-day working marina in London," he says.

IN THE MARKET

■ Trafalgar House Developments has sold its 25,000 sq ft office and residential development at Tilney Street, Mayfair, central London, to Middle Eastern investors for more than £25 million. The scheme includes an air-conditioned office building, 10 flats and a restored Grade II listed five-bedroom Georgian town house. The company says the sale indicates that demand still exists for prime freehold Mayfair buildings, and the scheme, for which the main contractors are Trollope & Colls, is due for completion next January.

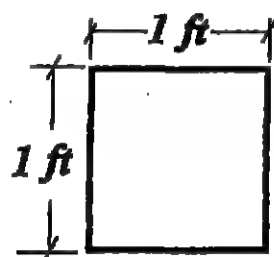
■ The Galleria, the Carroll Group of Companies' spectacular £200

million shopping and leisure centre scheme, is emerging conspicuously above the A1(M) motorway 20 miles north of London, built directly over the six-lane Hatfield tunnel. The centre will house 130 shops, eight restaurants and a nine-screen cinema complex, and claims a number of records - the world's largest shop window, 90ft high, and Europe's largest single shopping mall, 600ft long and 160ft wide, with the largest single-span steel roof of 160ft. The Galleria is due to open in the early summer of 1991.

■ Bryant Properties, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bryant Group,

and Monstra Developments, a subsidiary of Dublin-based Astra Group Holdings, have announced a second joint venture development in the Irish Republic. After coming together for a 175,000-office scheme in Dublin last year, they are now to combine on a £30 million, 120,000 sq ft shopping scheme in Limerick city centre, aiming to emulate Grafton Street, Ireland's prime shopping area in Dublin. There will be 40 shops, and work on the scheme, which will provide 400 to 500 jobs, is due to start early next year. Completion is expected in autumn 1992.

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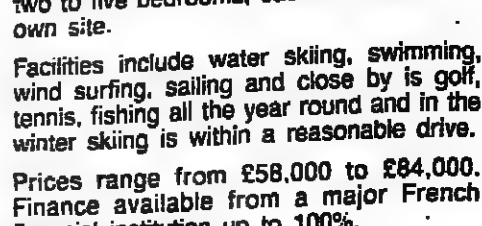
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RUGBY UNION

Fitzgerald the man to restore pride to the green jerseys

By George Ace

CIARAN Fitzgerald, Ireland's most successful rugby captain in the post-war era, is fast emerging as a strong favourite to take over as national coach next season.

The former Army officer, who led Ireland to two triple crown successes in 1982 and 1983 and captained the British Lions in New Zealand in 1983, may be short on coaching experience at provincial level but he has, in tandem with Johnny Maloney, another former Ireland captain and British Lion, enjoyed considerable success with Ireland under-21 and under-25 teams. As a leader and motivator, however, Fitzgerald stands head and shoulders above any other candidate.

His Army training stood him in good stead when he took over the captaincy of Ireland in the early Eighties. He spoke a language all could understand and while he was a firm disciplinarian so far as one can be as captain of an

Irish team, he had the knack of getting things done by quiet persuasion rather than ranting and roaring.

These attributes, coupled to a certain presence, make him an almost automatic choice; and that is said with no disrespect to the other candidates for one of the most demanding jobs in rugby. But if anyone has the acumen to lead Ireland out of the mire of mediocrity it is Fitzgerald, who was born in Galway in June 1952 and is a true son of Connacht.

Like another famous off-spring of the western province, Ray McLaughlin, a former Irish captain and British Lion, Fitzgerald is a proud man who will never stop drumming it into his team how fortunate it is to be pulling on a green jersey, a man who will never accept less than maximum effort and who, in his inimitable manner, is capable of heralding a new era in Irish rugby.

Fitzgerald won the first of his 25 caps as hooker in Australia in 1979 when Pat Whealan, the regular No. 2, was injured. He held his place the following season but missed out in 1981, only to re-emerge in 1982 as captain and lead Ireland to a first triple crown success since 1949.

And Fitzgerald is one of the few to have played in more winning Ireland teams than losing ones, his tally over 26 matches being 13 wins, one draw and 12 defeats.

Ireland registered only three championship wins in the last three seasons, scant reward for the effort put into the job of coaching by Jimmy Davidson. Fitzgerald, providing the expected materializes next month and he is appointed coach, cannot be expected to work miracles overnight but it is a fair bet that Ireland's challenge in the World Cup next season will greatly exceed that in Australia at the inaugural tournament in 1987.

Miserable day for Cecil as top Derby hope is ruled out with injury



In The Groove (Ray Cochrane) speeding clear of Sardegna (Steve Cauthen) in the closing stages of York's Musidora Stakes

Premature end to Belmez's career

BELMEZ, ante-post second favourite for the Ever Ready Derby, is injured and will not race again.

Anthony Stroud, racing manager to the colt's owner Sheikh Mohammed, confirmed yesterday that the horse damaged a tendon during last week's Chester Vase and the injury was far more serious than first thought.

The news of Henry Cecil's main Derby hope threw a muddy betting market into even more confusion. Belmez was priced at a general 8-1 until yesterday following his victory over Quest For Fame. Now, Digression, due to make his season's reappearance in the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood next Wednesday, is 11-4 favourite with Corals and 4-1 with William Hill.

Stroud said yesterday: "The horse injured a tendon in the knee and this explains why he was hanging badly during the race."

"It proved to be much more serious than we first thought and was diagnosed last night. As

a result, we have had to retire him prematurely. It is a serious blow and is really disappointing for everyone."

Leading owner Sheikh Mohammed has yet to win the Derby, but still has three contenders listed in the betting. "We still have Anshan, Sasaki and Razzen but we really won't have any idea which of those will make the line-up until next week," Stroud added.

Anshan, third in the 2,000 Guineas, runs in today's Dante Stakes at York while Sasaki has been earmarked for the Glasgow Stakes tomorrow. The unbeaten Razzen is expected to take on Digression at Goodwood.

William Hill have revised their Derby betting to: 7-2 Digression, 10-1 Rock Hopper, 11-1 Zoman, 14-1 Anshan, Blue Stag, Sasaki, 16-1 Duke Of Paducah, Luanin, Mukddam, Razzen, Shavian, 20-1 others.

Their spokesman Graham Sharpe commented: "Things are bad enough already. Turnover on the Derby so far is 25 per cent down on previous years."

Mukddam on easy list

MUKDDAM, Nashwan's half-brother, will not run in the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood next week. His bruised foot is not fully healed.

His trainer Dick Hern reported: "The bruised foot which caused Mukddam to miss Chester has not cleared up as quickly as anticipated and he will not now be entered for the Predominate Stakes."

The West Halesy trainer added: "It is, however, still

hoped that he may be ready to run in the Derby."

Mukddam made a winning reappearance in the Labour Stakes at Kempton before finishing fourth in the subsequent 2,000 Guineas winner Tirol in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket. But his injury forced him to miss the Chester Vase last week.

There was no change in William Hill's betting on the Epsom classic, where Mukddam remains a 16-1 chance.

Machiavellian meets Tirol again in Ireland

TIROL and Machiavellian, first and second in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, meet again in the Airfie/Coolmore Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh on Saturday.

The announcement was made yesterday that Machiavellian would take part, and Francois Boutin reported that his colt had come very well out of the Newmarket race.

Boutin said: "I am confident he will put up a better fight this time. I don't say he will win, but he will do much better."

The £122,000 prize-money has attracted a field of 12, and another definite runner is the Guineas fourth Rock City, who, like Tirol, is trained by Richard Hannon.

The Italian 2,000 Guineas winner Candy Glen, trained by Christian Wall, is another English-trained entry, along with John Dunlop's Noble Patriarch and Russian Frontier (Barry Hills).

The Dublin bookmaker Alan Tuthill got 5-4 on Tirol, 7-4 Machiavellian, 7-1 Royal Academy, 8-1 Lotus Pool.

The entries are: Bastille Day, Candy Glen, Dickens Lane,

Legal Verdict, Lotus Pool (Michael Kinane), Machiavellian (Freddie Head), Mr Brooks, Noble Patriarch (Frankie Dettori), Rock City, Royal Academy (John Reid), Russian Frontier and Tirol (Pat Eddery).

The race, due off at 3.50, will be televised by BBC 1.

In the group two Tattersalls EBF Rogers Gold Cup at the Curragh on Saturday, Pat Eddery rides Batsfoot for Ben Hanbury, Frankie Dettori is on Pirate Army and Gary Carter has been booked for the Geoff Wragge-trained Braiswick.

The original inquiry was scheduled for next Monday, but Jeremy Richardson, on behalf of Aliya's trainer, Michael Stoute, said that he would be unable to complete the preparation of his client's case by that date.

Aliya, owned by the Aga Khan, won last season's Oaks, but failed a subsequent drug test.

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In The Groove classic material for Elsworth

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

DAVID Elsworth, dual purpose trainer extraordinary, put himself on target for a first classic success when In The Groove outclassed Sardegna and three other hopefuls in the Tattersalls Musidora Stakes at York yesterday.

"She's a filly of the highest calibre," said Desert Orchid's handler, with a twinkle in his eye. "She's now looking for a left-handed track with a downhill slope and a distance of 1½ miles."

General bookmakers' reaction after yesterday's trial was to shorten Salsabil's price to 7-4. In The Groove is generally on offer at 7-1 with Sardegna, yesterday's beaten 6-5 on favourite, pushed out to 12-1.

Ray Cochrane settled In The Groove down at the rear of the field as Walter Swinburn made the running on Ivrea. Over two furlongs from home, Berry's Dream was challenging the leader.

Steve Cauthen was hard at work on the favourite as In The Groove loomed up on the outside.

Striking the front below the distance, In The Groove went clear to win by 1½ lengths. Sardegna, after being switched to the inside, then stayed on strongly to finish second, a neck in front of Ivrea.

In the Nell Gwyn Stakes, In The Groove had been beaten only a short head by the subsequent 1,000 Guineas runner-up, Heart Of Joy. However, in the classic itself she had performed abysmally, eventually finishing eighth of the 10 runners.

"It was a total nonsense," said the trainer. "She got very over-excited in the stalls and hated the firm ground. From the way she ran today and Heart Of Joy went in the

Guineas, that confirms it was all wrong."

Being by the Northern Dancer sire Night Shift out of the High Top mare, Pine Ridge, In The Groove is not certain to stay 1½ miles on breeding, but judged by the way she finished yesterday, the Oaks distance should not be beyond her powers. "She switched off and did nothing after she hit the front," the trainer went on. "She's certain to stay."

Elsworth is certainly not worried about finding a suitable jockey for Epsom. "If you've got the horse, you never have any problem in getting a rider. Steve Cauthen is always my first choice. But if he can't ride there's Cash Asmussen and I'm sure Ray would love to ride her again."

Sardegna's performance, so strikingly in contrast with her win in Newmarket's Pretty Polly Stakes, was yet another disappointment in a generally disastrous day for Henry Cecil.

"Obviously, we are going to have to think about the Oaks and sleep on it," said the eight times champion trainer, phlegmatically. "But it was very disappointing. After all, if she quickened to win by a couple of lengths, we'd now be going to Epsom fancying our chances."

The next Oaks clues may be gleaned at Newbury on Friday when the Aga Khan's filly Katijana goes on trial in the William Hill Filly Stakes.

Cecil had earlier had another setback when Cauthen and Admiral Byng had been beaten half a length by Steve Perks and Criminal Law in the Lambson Chemical Stakes.

If anything the 11-3 joint favourite was flattered by the

narrow margin of his defeat as Criminal Law would have won by further but for hanging into the rails in the straight.

In the opening Zetland Maiden Filly Stakes Alex Scott showed us a two-year-old filly of some ability when Balwa and Pat Eddery were always travelling too strongly for Kevin Darley on the 5-2 favourite, Ivy Cottage. However, the winner will not be sent to Ascot for the Queen Mary but will travel to Rome for a group three race on June 9.

In the Paul Caddick and MacGay Sprint Trophy, the punters once again entrusted Ajanae with favouritism, forcing the top weight's price down from 6-1 to 4-1. But Eddery was always struggling and eventually finished down the field as John Lowe forced Nordic Brave past Dier to win by a short head.

Despite the fact that the winner started at 50-1 and was 9lb out of the long handicap, the four-year-old was fancied by his trainer Mel Brittain.

"He was very well and it was the first time he's had a bit of give in the ground," he said.

The last two races were also handicaps and the Yorkshire Television Stakes was won in decisive style by Cauthen on Robert Armstrong's Bean King, who beat Linpac West by two lengths. There was a stewards inquiry when Queen's Tour stumbled and badly hampered Off the Record, also interfering with several other horses, but it was decided that the interference was accidental.

Finally, Lanfranco Dettori sent the punters home happy when bringing the well backed 4-1 chance Orvietto home a comfortable winner of the Sothebys Sledmere Stakes.

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Change of name for Gosforth

GOSFORTH, who remained in the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship last season only because there was no relegation, will play under a new name next season. They will be known as Newcastle Gosforth when they take up residence at their new Brunton Road ground in August (David Hands writes).

The club's annual meeting on Monday night received assurances that the ground and clubhouse, which are costing £1.3 million, will be completed in time, despite a change of building contractor.

It will be opened officially on September 9 by Michael Peary, who is due to be elected president of the Rugby Football Union in July and will bring a guest XV to play Newcastle Gosforth.

By that time Mick Mahoney, their former coach, will be getting to grips with his new paid appointment as director of coaching, announced earlier this month.

Frustrated Ridge moves to league

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

MATTHEW Ridge, the young full back who toured Wales and Ireland last autumn with Wayne Shefford's New Zealand team, has turned professional for an unspecified fee. Ridge, aged 21, will play for Manly-Warringah, leading Sydney rugby league club.

He follows the path taken by Kurt Sherlock, the Auckland centre who went to play rugby league in Sydney in 1987, in that he leaves rugby union without having achieved his ambition of winning a cap. That, as much as anything, is a tribute to the sustained consistency of John Gallagher, the Wellington full back who was born in London and is, perhaps, the world's best full back.

Gallagher is still only 26 and Manly have clearly recognized the frustration which exists for any would-be heir. The same situation exists for Zinzan Brooke, like Ridge an

Auckland who has to live in the shadow of another leading player — in his case Wayne Shefford, New Zealand's No. 8 and captain.

Brooke, who captained the All Blacks at this year's Hong Kong seven, has also been linked with Manly, who are now coached by Graham Lowe, the New Zealander who contributed so much to Wigan's success on the British rugby league scene.

Lowe said of Ridge, who has also played stand-off half: "I think he's an exciting player. He's quick and he has shown he has got the courage and the right attitude in modern competitive sport."

Manly are hoping to make further signings before the end of the month and it will not distress Scotland should they make further raids into New Zealand — the Scots begin their tour there at the end of this month.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Basketball's bright future

By Jane Wyatt

THE Princess of Wales will be making her third appearance in seven months as patron of the British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD), when she attends a wheelchair basketball development day at the Fountain Leisure Centre in Brentford on Friday.

She will be meeting children with various disabilities, who will be receiving coaching from a number of leading players, including Martin Clark, a member of the England basketball squad.

The event is one in a series of 20 junior and senior development days being held around the country this year. They are part of a joint effort by the BSAD and the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Association (GBWBA), to encourage more players and coaches into the game.

An attempt is also being made to recruit able-bodied players and coaches, who may be interested in contributing to the wheelchair game by refereeing. To demonstrate the skill and excitement of the wheeled version, matches involving local teams, or even regional championships, will be held.

The sport is at last gaining in popularity, having been in decline in this country through the 1970s and early 1980s. In 1981 there were only 98 registered players, all of them male. By 1987, that figure had risen to 350, including about 100 women, playing in 35 teams.

Today, there are approximately 300 club and league players, as well as 250 school children, playing wheelchair basketball. But these figures do not compare well with the situation in France, where the number of players runs into several thousand.

The GBWBA's development officer, Fiona Davidson, says basketball in Britain stagnated just at the time when it started

to blossom in other countries, and she attributes some of the problems to a lack of professionalism among coaches.

"Our coaches are very good on the technical side, most of them having been former players, but they don't know the psychology, physiology and fitness aspects of the game that you get through studying sport at a high level," Davidson said. "We are reviewing the whole situation and intend to implement some radical changes in selection procedures."

An injection of funds from sponsors, enabling the GBWBA to have its first full-time officer, and the BSAD to have its two-year development programme, means the future is beginning to look brighter for wheelchair basketball. It is hoped that the development days will stimulate enough interest to make Davidson's target of a thousand players by the end of the year a distinct possibility.

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Roxburgh's fine-tuning plan

By Roddy Forsyth

WHEREAS at this stage in the lead-up to one or two previous Scottish World Cup campaigns the dominant note was sounded by drum beaters for the cause, the present Scottish coach, Andy Roxburgh, has concentrated his attention on fine tuning, and in tonight's meeting with Egypt at Pittodrie he will continue to explore subtle variations on the theme which has been introduced in the previous preparatory fixtures.

"We want to try one or two things in this particular match, while taking into account the kind of game we think it will be," Roxburgh said yesterday. "Egypt are a team who have got good technique at the back, play possession football but are very quick on the counter-attack, the kind of thing we can expect to face when we meet Costa Rica in our first match in Italy."

"The players we most want to see in this match are in the main our more senior ones, people like Maurice Malpas, who has been out for a while because of injury, much like Gary Gillespie. Both of them simply need to be brought to the right pitch of match fitness. Then there is Dave Cooper and we are going to modify our system a little bit from the way we have been playing, in order to accommodate him."

From a Scottish point of view, the performance of Cooper will certainly be a principal source of interest against an Egyptian team which is attempting to gain first hand experience of the British style of football prior to the World Cup group matches with England and the Republic of Ireland.

"Cooper will be a floater during this one," Roxburgh said. "There will be times when he will play as an orthodox left winger and times when we will play off the front two of Durie and McCoist, although we will not use him through the centre."

This suggests that Cooper will be required to use both his unusually refined control, as well as his ability to shoot forcefully, in close support of the attacking pair. A sound performance at Pittodrie this evening will virtually guarantee Cooper his ticket to Genoa where he will not be expected, at the age of 34, to expend his restricted stamina over the full course of any

Today's teams

SCOTLAND: B Gunn (Norwich City), S McKimmie (Aberdeen), R Gough (Rangers), G Gillespie (Liverpool), A McLeish (Aberdeen), M Malpas (Dundee United), P McCloy (Colt), J Bell (Aberdeen), D Cooper (Motherwell), A McCoist (Rangers), G Dunc (Chelsea).

EGYPT: A Shoubair (Al Ahly), I Hassan (Al Ahly), M Youssef (Al Ahly), M Ramet (Al Ahly), M Yassin (Zamalek), W A Shams (SC Beira Mar), J Youssef (Zamalek), A El Kae (Olympic), M Hassan (El Ahly), G A Hamid (Zamalek).

game. Accordingly, it will not be a surprise if he is substituted in the later stages against the Egyptians.

Maurice Johnston, having been afflicted with a stomach ailment on Rangers' holiday trip to Spain last week, will be replaced in the attack by Gordon Durie, who last partnered Ally McCoist in Scotland's World Cup qualifying match in Zagreb, where the Chelsea forward scored Scotland's goal in a 3-1 defeat.

Roxburgh has expressed concern that certain players, McCoist amongst them, are suffering from severe fatigue after a demanding season but the Rangers player, who is rarely short of ebullience, appeared yesterday to be fully regenerated by his short sojourn in the Iberian sun.

Gunn, of Norwich City, gets an opportunity to play in goal for his country at the club ground where he was, for some time, forced to play the understudy role to Jim Leighton. Gunn's presence, and the fact that the Aberdeen trio of McKimmie, McLeish and Gunn will be allowed to parade their newly acquired Scottish Cup, presumably when Celtic's McStay is absent from the vicinity, will guarantee a capacity crowd.

The press box, too, will be fully subscribed because of the English contingent, in town to take the measure of Egypt as opponents.

They will no doubt be gratified to discover that the Egyptian manager, Mohammed El Gohary, believes that the only possible winners of this World Cup will be one of six from Italy, West Germany, Brazil, Argentina, the Netherlands and England, although any pleasure in his predictions must be tempered by the fact that El Gohary also thinks that each of these teams has previously won the trophy; this is not true in the case of the Dutch.



Side by side: Scotland's players led by Durie (left) and Gillespie (right) in training at Aberdeen yesterday

Egypt want respect, not reward

By a Special Correspondent

ENGLAND'S highly-paid footballers may be more than a little surprised to learn the pay packets Egypt will produce if their men embarrass them, the Netherlands, or Eire in Sardinia this summer.

"We are paying £400 for a win in the World Cup and £200 for a draw," Mohammed El Gohary, the manager, revealed in Aberdeen yesterday as he prepared for the international against Scotland tonight. Apart from the financial rewards on offer for progress, the 52-year-old Egyptian, who replaced Welshman Mike Smith 18 months ago, and who had a recent letter of resignation flatly rejected by

his football association, there is also another significant difference between the qualifying group contenders.

"When we reach Sardinia I will have had only four months to turn my players into professionals. I have 25 players with me and they are either amateurs or part-time. I have taken them away from their jobs and from colleges and schools to represent their country," El Gohary said.

El Gohary has a detailed nine-match programme on his agenda before opening against the Dutch in Palermo. "We want world-wide respect and we have the opportunity by appearing in our first finals for 56 years. We are looking to use these as a

stepping-stone to give ourselves a name in world football."

A pedigree is already being printed following goalless draws with Denmark, Austria and South Korea, and a 1-0 win over Czechoslovakia. The only blemish so far has been a 3-1 defeat by Romania, a result which led to El Gohary wanting to quit.

Scotland would do well to note this determination as the Egyptians are clearly out to make their mark.

"Scotland are aggressive. I admire their spirit and this game will be helpful for when we play against England in Cagliari. The England team has changed a bit over the last year and they have altered

their system. They are playing fine football now."

"Their problem was that they had too many good players. But now their style gives freedom to the talented players and I particularly like Waddie, Barnes, Lincker and Butcher."

"England will be important in the World Cup as they have everything in order. Those who look at our section would see England and Holland coming out on top and followed by Eire with my country in fourth place."

"But we have seen many funny things in previous finals. It's a short three-game programme and other results could work for us."

A return leg in need of an iron hand

By Louise Taylor

THE first leg of the second-division play-off between Sunderland and Newcastle United produced six bookings, one sending-off and no goals, so both clubs will be eager to improve on their performances when they meet again at St James' Park tonight.

A stricter referee than Vic Callow would have booked more offenders and Paul Hardyman, of Sunderland, would not have been the only man to have a red card waved in his face.

Hardyman was dismissed for kicking Burridge, the Newcastle goalkeeper, after missing an injury-time penalty and is automatically suspended for the remainder of Sunderland's involvement in the play-offs.

It is not clear who will take his place on the left side of midfield. Anthony Cullen, who was rejected by Newcastle two years ago, would relish the chance. He still lives on Tyneside and is further motivated by threats made by Newcastle supporters.

"I have had a lot of hassle," he said. "Before the last derby in February we had to call the police out at 2am."

Such is the rivalry between supporters of the two clubs that Gordon Armstrong, who also lives in Newcastle, has

retreated to stay with friends in Durham until after the play-offs.

Should Cullen be overlooked, Armstrong could be moved on to the left flank to accommodate Brian Atkinson in central midfield. Denis Smith, the manager of Sunderland, could recall Kieron Brady, a left winger, whose early form on the pitch promised much before an incident off it earned him a club suspension.

It is to be hoped that George Courtney, the World Cup referee in charge tonight, will be more severe than Callow.

Newcastle had five players booked as opposed to Sunderland's one, but Jim Smith, the Newcastle manager, laid the blame for the poor behaviour at Sunderland's door — and at the feet of Gary Owers in particular. Denis Smith, said: "The problem is that Jim [Smith] gets too emotional, like his players."

Denis Smith's main problem this evening is replacing the right back, Ray Ranson, who tore a hamstring at Roker Park. He may introduce Darren Bradshaw or shift Bjorn Kristensen from midfield to full back, allowing either Liam O'Brien or Kevin Dillon to play a central role.

Swindon favourites despite the caution

By Steve Acteson

SWINDON Town hold a 2-1 lead going into the second leg of their second division play-off match with Blackburn Rovers in their own backyard, the County Ground, in Wiltshire tonight.

But despite also having the psychological advantage of having won at Blackburn's Ewood Park on Sunday the Swindon players will certainly not believe that a place in the final against either Sunderland or Newcastle United is already a foregone conclusion.

Chic Bates, the assistant to Swindon's manager, Ossie Ardiles, reported no injury problems yesterday, the only question mark being over the choice of the substitutes, from Simpson, Hockaday, Close and Cornwell.

Bates said however: "We seem to have done the hard work by winning up there but I would hope we are too experienced to think we are already through."

"To be honest we are expecting a much harder game than on Sunday and we are certainly expecting Blackburn to play a lot better."

For all Swindon's popularity on the pitch this season, for

the elegant style that Ardiles has instilled into their football, they have attracted greater publicity over financial irregularities.

Bates said: "This has never affected the players. It is all forgotten when they are out on the pitch; all they are thinking about then is winning. We have been confident all season, we have played some tremendous football and made friends all over the country and I honestly believe that most teams that we have played would like to see us go up because we deserve to on merit."

For all Bates's caution it is Blackburn who have the uphill task as they, like Swindon, attempt to succeed in the play-offs at the third time of asking. Don Mackay, the manager, has injuries to Sellers, Moran and Kennedy, who scored after coming on as substitute on Sunday, to worry about although all three travelled to Swindon yesterday.

Mackay's most nagging worry however will be the lack of commitment and passion that his team displayed on Sunday until they were two goals down.

Arsenal consider action

ARSENAL are considering taking disciplinary action against five players, Nigel Winterburn, the England left back, Paul Merson, Kevin Richardson, Perry Groves and Steve Bould, for a breach of club rules (Dennis Signy writes).

The players are believed to have been caught drinking on the evening before Arsenal's

final League game of the season, at Norwich City. The club's rules preclude the players drinking 24 hours before a game.

Four of the five have been sent home early from Arsenal's tour of the Far East after playing one match in Singapore last week against South Korea. The fifth, Merson, was not on the tour.

Coppell is still undecided

STEVE Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager, has added the utility player, Alex Dyer, to his squad for the FA Cup final replay against Manchester United tomorrow.

Dyer is the only addition to the 17 on duty for Saturday's game, which finished 3-3 after extra time. Coppell, though, is unlikely to make many changes to his side.

He has still to decide whether Wright, who came on in the seventeenth minute at Wembley and scored twice, will start the match, or again be a substitute.

"I will probably leave it until the last minute before announcing my decision," Coppell said. "I think if I announced that Wright was playing, then United would make their plans accordingly, but if I don't say anything they won't know what is going on."

Manchester United, meanwhile, are still waiting for news of Pallister's ankle injury before naming their side. Their manager, Alex Ferguson, said: "It's still touch and go for Gary. We will wait as long as we can for him, up to Thursday. He had treatment yesterday, and if we can get him jogging a bit then his chances will be brighter."

Slaven handed incentive to shine at Brady's farewell

From Clive White Dublin

BERNIE Slaven, the prolific scoring Middlesbrough forward, will be given the opportunity to press his claim for a place in the Republic of Ireland's World Cup starting line-up here this afternoon when he partners Cascarino in attack against Finland at Lansdowne Road.

Jack Charlton, the manager has opted to omit Aldridge from the team, which makes its final appearance before the Irish public prior to next month's finals in Italy.

In tandem with Aldridge, Slaven, on his debut, scored the only goal of the game against Wales in March and Charlton considered it important that he should familiarize himself further with the Irish way of playing.

Slaven has continued scoring this season, despite Middlesbrough's problems in the second division, and will be keen to sustain his goals-to-games ratio, something that Aldridge has always struggled to do when wearing the green vest.

In a team showing seven

Ireland team

P. Bounie (Colt), G. Hughes (Tottenham Hotspur), S. Slaven (Middlesbrough), M. Cascarino (Middlesbrough), D. O'Leary (Aston Villa), R. Whelan (Liverpool), P. McCloy (Aston Villa), L. Brady (West Ham United), J. Byrne (Le Havre), A. Casarino (Aston Villa), B. Slaven (Middlesbrough), S. Slaven (Middlesbrough), G. Hughes (Tottenham Hotspur), G. Hughes (Tottenham Hotspur), J. Aldridge (Reading), A. N. O'Leary.

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Introduce their new entry-level system
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Today, Sun Microsystems have exactly halved the entry level cost of SPARC computing with the launch of the SPARCstation SLC (£3999, actually). A 12.5 MIPS, 8Mb, diskless workstation with monochrome 17 inch, 1152 x 900 display.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

A step on the ladder

JACKIE Stewart, the former Formula One world champion, announced yesterday a "staircase for talent" which he hopes will take young racing drivers to the top.

Speaking at the opening of the new Paul Stewart Racing headquarters, he said: "I'm proud to offer young drivers, engineers and managers the chance to join a team in the junior categories of racing and progress through to the top international formulas."

On his marks

Jon Ridgeon, the 1987 world championship 110 metres hurdles silver medal winner, makes his season's debut at Croydon on Sunday.



Stewart: opening doors

Missing miles

Britain's three main professional cycling teams, who are having to rely on one-hour city-centre events as their preparation for the Milk Race, have been robbed of valuable racing miles by the cancellation of this weekend's 100-mile Tour of Delyn.

Testing time

East Berlin (Reuters) — Leading East and West German swimmers have agreed to undergo voluntary drug testing three times a year in the hope of disproving rumours that sportsmen and women from both states have used performance-aiding drugs.

Lewis steps in

Lennox Lewis, the unbeaten heavyweight, will box against Phil Brown, of the United States, at Sheffield City Hall on Sunday as a replacement for Alfonso Ratliff.

Sailing home

Henk de Velde, who set out from Falmouth last December to break the record for solo circumnavigation, arrived back yesterday nine days outside his original target.

Hendry's harvest has begun

By Steve Acteson

WHEN Stephen Hendry became the youngest winner of the world snooker championship last month, and thus supplanted Steve Davis as world No. 1, Hendry's manager, Ian Doyle, promised that as long as he maintained his form he could expect to earn around £1.5 million in the next year.

Yesterday that promise started to bear fruit when Hendry signed the most lucrative one-year contract in the history of the game, with the adhesive company Bostik, which will be worth a minimum of £250,000.

Another £72,000 could be added to the bulging coffers of the 21-year-old Scot who, Doyle said, "is already worth seven figures but has a million or two to make yet before he is financially secure for life."

If Hendry can make a televised maximum break in the televised stages of any of eight selected tournaments next season Bostik will pay a further £1,000 per point, the residue of £75,000 going to the RSPCA.

For their money Bostik will have the eminently marketable Hendry's services as the tip of their advertising and sales drive and he will also make 21 personal appearances for them, including exhibition evenings, in the United Kingdom and on the increasingly snooker-conscious Continent.

Hendry and the six other members of Doyle's Cue-master management stable, who will also benefit from the deal, will wear the Bostik logo

on their clothing whenever possible; it is not possible at present in events run by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

"Barry Hearn and I will be telling the board this month that it must follow tennis in terms of personal sponsorship. Wearing logos is a way of raising money to keep young players in the game and we've got to take it up with the BBC and ITV because it is absolute nonsense that players can't wear them."

Hendry said: "The money is a tremendous bonus but foremost in my mind is staying as No. 1 and hopefully retaining the world championship. I don't want to be a one season wonder."

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Arms scheme

Missing link

Leeds inflation

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